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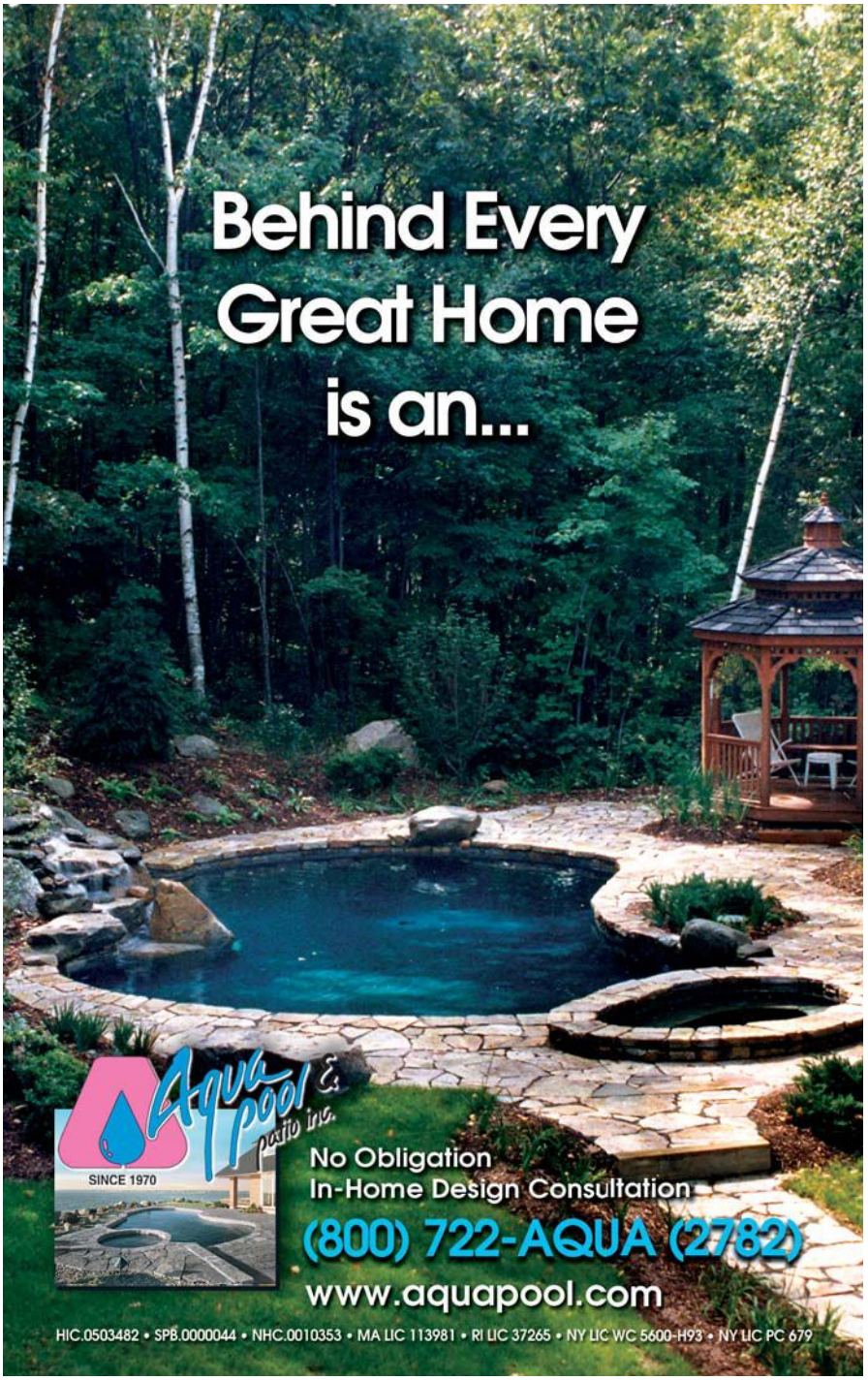
At left: Installation of "Passing Through" at Tunxis Community College in Farmington. Photo by Kate Hartman.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CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE® BUSINESS & EDITORIAL OFFICES
40 Sargent Dr. | New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 789-5300 | Fax (203) 789-5255

General Manager **Marisa B. Dragone**
(203) 789-5214 | mdragone@connecticutmag.com

| editorial | editorial@connecticutmag.com

Connecticut Group Editor **Matt DeRienzo**
mderienzo@21st-centurymedia.com

Verticals Editor **Douglas P. Clement**
(203) 789-5243 | dclement@connecticutmag.com

Content Manager **Ray Bendici**
(203) 789-5230 | rbendici@connecticutmag.com

Senior Editors
Valerie Schroth (203) 789-5233
vschroth@connecticutmag.com
Patricia Grandjean (203) 789-5223
pgrandjean@connecticutmag.com

Associate Editor **Cathy P. Ross**
(203) 789-5227 | cross@connecticutmag.com

Staff Writer **Maria LaPiana**
(203) 789-5300 | mlapiana@connecticutmag.com

Political Reporter **Jennifer Swift**
(203) 789-5615 | jswift@connecticutmag.com

Contributing Writers **Jackson Connor, Thomas J. Craughwell, Kate Hartman, Elizabeth Keyser, Shako Liu, Elise Maclay, Erik Ofgang**

| art & production |

Senior Designer **Stacey S. Shea**
(203) 789-5216 | sshea@connecticutmag.com

Production Designer **Patricia Iwaniw**
(203) 789-5395 | piwaniw@connecticutmag.com

Design Associate **Carol Petro** (203) 789-5215

For production inquiries, call (203) 789-5214

| sales & marketing |

Advertising Manager **David J. Glaski**
(203) 789-5219 | dglaski@connecticutmag.com

Stamford | Westchester **Serafina DiBono**
(203) 676-3269 | sdibono@connecticutmag.com

Westport | Fairfield
(203) 789-5219 | advertising@connecticutmag.com

Hartford West | Middletown
(203) 789-5219 | advertising@connecticutmag.com

Hartford East | Pomfret **Karl Cicitto**
(860) 944-7256 | kcicitto@connecticutmag.com

Greater New Haven **Joe Hiznay**
(203) 401-1572 | jhiznay@connecticutmag.com

Old Saybrook | Mystic **Sue LaPorte**
(860) 921-1549 | slaporte@connecticutmag.com

Greater Litchfield | Waterbury **Alison Woods**
(203) 500-4381 | awoods@connecticutmag.com

Financial Analyst **Erika Parri**
(203) 789-5261 | eparri@connecticutmag.com

Classifieds | Marketplace **David Martin**
(203) 789-5394 | dmartin@connecticutmag.com

Circulation Manager **David Martin**
(203) 789-5394 | dmartin@connecticutmag.com

PUBLISHER'S REPRESENTATIVES

New York **Couture Marketing**
(917) 821-4429 | karen@couturemarketing.com

Boston **Lange Media Sales**
(781) 642-0400 | erklange@aim.com

| credit & collections | (877) 396-8937

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| from the editor |

The Art of Public Investment

Kate Hartman's reporting this month on taxpayer-funded artwork ("Art Lessons," page 37; "The American Mural Project," page 40; and "The One Percent," page 41) raises interesting questions about the public's responsibility to invest in Connecticut's cultural resources.

The state's Percent for the Arts program and similar initiatives in 26 other states have sparked mini-controversies since the trend became popular in the 1970s. Art is in the eye of the beholder, and even those who might support the idea of the program have complained when an abstract sculpture they "don't get" pops up in front of the new local community college building.

And without context, the individual price tags for major public art installations can be a rallying cry for taxpayers asking why we'd spend $200,000 on a mural when Connecticut's tax burden is so high, when people are out of work, when roads are in disrepair.

Even in the world of private charity and nonprofits, it's natural to wrestle with similar questions. Should a bank that wants to give back to the community support a dance troupe or symphony when the local homeless shelter or domestic violence center are fighting to keep their doors open?

What about historic preservation? Is it worth $3 million to restore or preserve a church's 150-year-old clocktower? How far do you go with those kinds of investments?

And what about the design of public infrastructure itself? Is it worth adding 5 percent to the cost of the project, or 10 percent, to build a bridge that improves the look and charm of a community instead of simply getting cars safely and reliably over a structure of steel and concrete?

How do we place a dollar value on the loss of history, or the absence of new artwork, or artists, or the aesthetic decline of our New England villages and urban downtowns? How much do those things contribute to the quality of life that drives up home values, or the massive contribution that tourism brings to Connecticut's economy?

Surplus or deficit, bad economy or good, these are questions that Connecticut's leaders must incorporate into any discussion of how our tax dollars are spent.

Matt DeRienzo
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voices

reader letters

Ultimate Failing?

I enjoy reading your magazine each month and generally find something interesting every time. The January issue's article about a UFC fighter ["From Rags to Ringside"] wasn't an uplifting subject. I don't feel that boxing, pro-wrestling or UFC fighting deserve to be called sports any more than the gladiators in Rome, even if many people have a different opinion. I particularly didn't need to see the photo on page 29 of Glover Teixeira, the fighter featured in the article, as he is about to pound the face of his opponent, who is lying on the mat inside a wire cage. Surely this isn't the face of Connecticut that your magazine seeks to promote.

Alex Makai,
via email

Poor Taste

Who decided to put that poor cooked rabbit on the cover of the January issue of the magazine with its poor little legs sticking up in the air! This, to me is disgusting and wrong—we have two pet rabbits and we do not want to see a cooked rabbit on the cover. None of our friends would ever eat that! We are not vegetarians but certain animals are a no-no for eating; we would not eat horse or goat meat, nor do we eat pork, or deer, either. Get the picture?

Edward Wasicki,
Cromwell

Best Restaurants (Continued)

Just add me to the list of very disappointed readers for the 2014 Best (Fairfield County) Restaurants edition [January 2014]. It stands to reason that the county with the highest per capita income in the state will have the most people who dine out on a regular basis; therefore they will have more opinions to share. However, there are some fabulous restaurants in other parts of the state being overlooked by using readers' choice picks. Please have a restaurant review panel give us this information next year.

Doreen Freeman,
via email

Since you publish a magazine, you should not be surprised to learn that the entire readership does not live crouched over computers all day long! Online restaurant choices would naturally be biased. Do you place an announcement in the magazine calling the time frame for online restaurant voting? If so, I've never seen one. Perhaps you could make the process a little more friendly. Eastern Connecticut does not begin to have the plethora of restaurants found in Fairfield County but it's not a complete wasteland.

Linda Lynch
via email

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Join the conversation—follow us on Twitter @connecticutmag and on our Facebook page.

Successful Examples

President Obama, Vice President Biden, Senate Majority Leader Reid, House Minority Leader Pelosi and all other members of Congress could learn a great deal by reading "Connecticut Success Stories" [February 2014]. Our local entrepreneurs have continued to create new employment opportunities without the assistance of federally funded taxpayers' stimulus dollars. These people are our neighbors who work long hours, pay taxes and provide local employment. All are true American heroes.

Larry Penner
Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y.

Correction

In "Stepping Out" [January 2014], we misidentified Barbara Brown at the gathering of Goodspeed Musicals alumni for a 50th anniversary celebration at Lincoln Center. In the photo, we inadvertently identified Brown, who appeared in Goodspeed's production of *Big River*, as Dottie Earle-DeLuca. We regret the error.

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FROM WAREHOUSE TO GREENHOUSE

On Jan. 28, Gov. Dannel Malloy and other state officials gathered in West Haven to announce that four sites had been selected to house medical marijuana-growing facilities—the first in state history—including the location of the press conference, a building owned by Advanced Grow Labs *(pictured)*. Other companies that have been approved are: Connecticut Pharmaceutical Solutions, which will operate in Portland; Curaleaf, in Simsbury; and Theraplant, in Watertown.

During the press conference, Gov. Malloy said that the expectation is that these first four facilities will create about 100 new jobs. The next step will be to license five dispensaries from the 27 companies applying, a process he expects will result in approved patients being able to then legally obtain marijuana by this summer.

According to the Department of Consumer Protection, nearly 1,700 patients have already been certified to participate in the state's medical marijuana program, which is designed to provide relief from 11 specific debilitating diseases.

PETER HVIZDAK/NEW HAVEN REGISTER

Armed and Ready

PRO-GUN VOTERS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE GEARING UP TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON THE RACE FOR THE GOVERNOR.

HANDS OFF!
In 2012, gun-rights groups gave $177,796 toward state races.
GUN CONTROL NOW!
In the same year, gun-control groups gave $47,742 toward state races.

Wanted: Republican ambitious for higher office. Must love guns and freedom. Hates Connecticut's gun laws. Must be willing to work to repeal said laws. Able to raise lots of money and win the general election.

That's the mission for many of Connecticut's gun owners, who were awakened politically after the state passed some of the toughest gun-control laws in the nation. They're now in search of a gubernatorial candidate to beat Democratic incumbent Dannel P. Malloy, and although they are overwhelmingly Republican, they ultimately might balk at the party's pick if it's not seen as pro-gun enough.

This could cause a schism in the Republican party that pushes it to the far right, potentially making it harder to find votes in a blue state.

That potential party divide was made starkly clear on a cold night in January during a New Haven fundraiser for the national Republican party. On one side of College Street stood 25 Tea Party Republicans, protesting that state GOP legislators had broken an oath by voting for gun control, while across the street inside the venerable Owl Shop, many of those same legislators were enjoying cigars and conversation with National Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus. Republicans all around, but more than two lanes of traffic separating the two factions.

For their part, gun owners have vowed to make it a central issue in the governor's race—even as the topic seemingly disappears from the national conversation.

During January's State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama made just one mention of gun control, vowing to keep "trying . . . to help stop more tragedies," a far cry from the call to action he delivered in his 2013 address, two months after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Connecticut's delegation in D.C. hasn't forgotten the issue and calls for legislation, but it's no longer among the daily priorities for those on Capitol Hill—most aren't even discussing gun laws for the upcoming legislative session as it's become such a political hot potato in this election year.

"Gun owners are certainly a lot more active now than they ever have been before," says Scott Wilson, president of the Connecticut Citizen's Defense League (CCDL). "A lot of CCDL members have joined their town committees . . . offering hands-on support with campaigns. If they're not operating in a capacity of a campaign, then they are getting the word out about SB 1160 [the state's new gun-control law] and the so-called assault weapon ban, which infringes on the rights of Americans. There's going to be a difference in this election because of that."

State Senate Minority Leader and gubernatorial candidate John McKinney—who worked on and voted for the new, stricter gun laws—gets a vehement "No" from gun owners. In fact, many are demanding that "McKinney Must Go," protesting outside events he attends and making their opinions heard on his campaign site. An effort is even being made to post signs demanding that "he must go" in every town in the state.

Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, has used social media to applaud Gov. Andrew Cuomo for New York's tough gun-control laws. In protest, pro-gun forces are putting their money where their mouths are, posting photos on Boughton's Facebook page with $100 bills, an offer to his campaign if he drops out of the mayors' coalition.

State Sen. Toni Boucher (R-Wilton) also voted for the gun-control legislation, but her campaign's lower profile has kept her out of the crossfire so far.

In January, Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Foley addressed gun owners at a CCDL meeting, and although he doesn't support the current gun laws, he didn't go so far as to say he would repeal anything, which wasn't enough to satisfy those in attendance.

Gun control is likely to be a bigger issue in the primary than in the general election as Republican candidates try to distinguish themselves while still trying to appeal to a broad constituency. Right now, it's still too early to tell whom gun owners and large organizations like the CCDL will support.

A candidate they could get behind in the primary is someone who moves the state in the "direction of less restrictions on our second amendment," says Wilson, who wants a governor who will take up laws that actually curtail gun violence—such as ensuring that sentencing for criminals

is kept strict and that "the people who shouldn't have guns don't have guns."

And while he believes a candidate who would actually work to repeal SB 1160 would be ideal, he knows gun owners need to be realistic. "Firearms are not the only issue," he admits. "We have a state right now that's economically devastated—people need jobs, they want a safe state to live in. So if we have somebody that has all of our ideal positions on firearms, great. Is that something we truly expect? No, but we're hopeful that we'll get at least better than what we have now."

So far, the political ramifications of voting for gun-control legislation have been felt more clearly than not voting for it. In Colorado, for example, three lawmakers who voted for the state's gun-control legislation were either recalled in an election or resigned prior to facing a recall.

The Sunlight Foundation, a reporting nonprofit that tracks money in politics among other tasks, has looked extensively into donations from the gun lobby on both sides and tracked the results. Reporter Nancy Watzman, who lives and reports on much of the gun lobby in Colorodo, says it was the first time lawmakers were recalled over votes. "This one issue definitely seems to speak deeply to people," she says. "It's not necessarily by any means a broad swath of the population, but a very active part of the population."

The landscape of Connecticut can't be compared to Colorado politically or otherwise, and isn't an accurate reference for what could happen here. But it is an indicator for how much influence and money groups are willing to pour into the argument on a statewide level. Many will also be watching to see if there are ramifications of voting for anti-gun legislation.

Connecticut's donations from gun lobbies in previous years mirror that of the rest of the nation, in that gun-rights money dwarfs gun-control money. On the national level, the Sunlight Foundation reports that the National Rifle Association alone spent more than $18 million to influence 2012 elections. In that election, $177,796 entered the state's races from gun-rights groups, compared to $47,742 from gun-control groups. The majority of that funding went to candidates in federal races, though statewide candidates received more than $56,000 from gun-rights groups. If the CCDL or others find their perfect candidate, that number could easily rise.

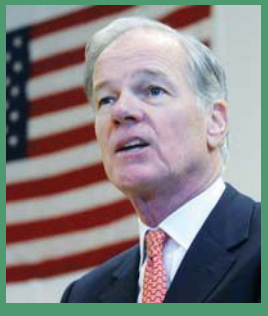
"Across the board, no matter where you are, the backlash is really really motivating people, and severe from the gun groups," says Watzman. "This issue is an incredibly strong element for grassroots action and support." | JENNIFER SWIFT |

Where Do They Stand?

Before the ads and rhetoric start filling your mailbox, TV and computer screens, here's where the Republican gubernatorial candidates stand on the issue of SB 1160.

SEN. JOHN MCKINNEY: State Senator from Newtown credited as an architect of the bill. Speaking on the floor of the Senate in support of it, he said that he was proud of his and others' efforts to heal the community and make the state safer. He read the names of all 26 individuals killed on Dec. 14 and added, "I stand here as their voice, as their elected representative."

SEN. TONI BOUCHER: Also voted for the bill, but has gone on record for wanting more help for mental health. "Although the Connecticut constitution gives every citizen the right to bear arms in defense of themselves and even the state, the law also does regulate the sale, the use and the possession of firearms," Boucher said on the floor while defending the law. She said if the bill was too far-reaching as some claim, it would be struck down by the judicial system.



MARA LAVITT

TOM FOLEY: Speaking to the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, he recently said he would veto any new legislation. "Had I been governor, the outcome for Connecticut would have been different," Foley told the crowd, adding there was a failure in the mental-health aspect of the bill. "I would have focused on that. I also would have focused on non-law-abiding citizens rather than law-abiding citizens."

PETER HVIZDAK

DANBURY MAYOR MARK BOUGHTON: Also says the bill would have been different if he were governor—stressing that mental health should have played a larger role. He applauded New York Gov. Cuomo's gun-control legislation on Facebook, posting: "What I like about this proposal is that it hits all of the points—mental health, backgrounds, high-capacity magazines, crackdown on illegal gun running, and the ability to commit someone if they are a danger to themselves or the public at large. Legal, lawful gun owners can still own a gun."

FRED ORTOLI

SHELTON MAYOR MARK LAURETTI: He does not support the bill passed by the legislature. "I don't think it gets us there," he said on WFSB's "Face the State" while announcing his candidacy in January. "I think that there are other mitigating factors that cause these things," he added, mentioning health care and video games.

Consentino on location in Iceland filming *Noah* with Russell Crowe.

Ready for His Closeup

RIDGEFIELD'S STEPHEN CONSENTINO HAS BEEN BEHIND THE LENS ON A NUMBER OF HOLLYWOOD HITS.

Stephen Consentino says that shooting the new film *Noah* was an intense experience of . . . well . . . biblical proportions.

"The story is about a cataclysmic event and we tried to portray that and be realistic to that, so it made it that much more of a challenge for all of us," says Consentino, of Ridgefield, who served as the A-camera operator and steadicam operator for the production.

The film is directed by Darren Aronofsky and stars Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly and Emma Watson. To re-create the epic flood at the center of the story the filmmakers used six giant rain towers outfitted with cranes, water hoses and mammoth sprinkler systems. The towers were capable of raining down on the cast and crew with the fury of a vengeful God.

"It was the biggest rain-making setup that I've ever seen and I think it might have been the biggest one anybody has undertaken," Consentino says. "That's the kind of realism that Darren likes to bring to his movies. It would have been very easy to put digital rain on everything and just wet down the actors a little bit, but when you're sitting underneath real rain towers that make 6,000 gallons of water come down on you every minute you start to understand what it might have been like to actually have lived through an event like that."

Consentino, who is in his 40s, is a veteran of the film industry, credited on more than 40 films including *Inside Man*, *Lord of War*, *Elf* and *Black Swan*, which was also directed by Aronofsky. *Noah* was the most difficult shoot of his 20-plus-year career, he says. The beginning of the film was shot in remote areas of Iceland, the main rain scenes were shot on Long Island, and most of the rest was shot on a soundstage in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Despite the difficulty, Consentino says Aronofsky kept everyone motivated. "Darren's a guy who really makes you want to dedicate yourself to the project," he says. The film's star, Crowe, was also a pleasure to work with, he says; while the production was in Iceland he hosted the cast and crew for several dinners. In addition, Crowe sings and plays guitar and would often perform during breaks in filming. "I have a lot of respect for him as an actor and I gained a lot of respect for him as a person," Consentino says.

Consentino has filmmaking in his blood. His parents Joseph and Sandra Consentino, also in Ridgefield, are award-winning documentary filmmakers who have made films for TNT and the History Channel. At first Consentino didn't plan on carrying on the family business. In college at Princeton University, he studied economics and electrical engineering. After he graduated, however, he realized a regular 9-to-5 job was not for him and fell in love with filmmaking. In particular, he was drawn to the steadicam—a type of camera-stabilizing platform that is worn by an operator and allows for a smooth steady shot without a dolly.

Consentino lives with his wife, Lynn, and their two children, Alexander and Isabella. He is currently shooting a new pilot for HBO called "Blanco." As much as he loves making movies for a living, he says people don't realize just how much hard work goes into the job.

"The film business seems glamorous and it is, in a way," he says. "Who else flies you to Iceland and takes you all over the world? You get to hike up to the top of mountains; you're helicoptered into these lush green valleys to film. But at the same time, most of those days in Iceland we would wake up at 5 a.m., and drive an hour-and-a-half to two hours to the location, film for 14 to 16 hours and drive two hours back. So at the end of an 18- or 20-hour day, you get 10 hours of rest and you turn around and do it again the next day. That's tiring." | ERIK OFGANG |

Coming Soon

A LOOK AHEAD AT MOVIES WITH CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS.

Yes, Virginia, there is cinema life after March 2's Oscar ceremonies. Here's an early look at some of the film projects Connecticut's celebs—and our state itself—will play a role in for the rest of 2014. . . . ***And So It Goes*** when Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton pair up for the first time in a movie directed by Rob Reiner. Douglas is a self-centered businessman whose estranged son forces him to take charge of the granddaughter he's never known; Keaton is the kindly neighbor he calls upon for help. Costars include Frances Sternhagen, Frankie Valli and a bevy of Connecticut locations, including Bristol's **Lake Compounce**. . . . Litchfield County's **Scott Rudin** was the producer behind such 2013 critics' darlings as *Captain Phillips, Frances Ha* and *Inside Llewyn Davis*. He kicks off his 2014 slate with Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (March 7), in which Anderson regulars Bill Murray and Owen Wilson will be featured alongside newcomers Ralph Fiennes and Jude Law. Later this year look for *Rosewater*, scripted and directed by "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart, and *Ex Machina*, an A.I. tale starring *Llewyn Davis*'s Oscar Isaac. . . . Also this month, check out the latest chip off the old *Hunger Games* block—*Divergent* (March 21)—with Shailene Woodley (who played George Clooney's eldest daughter in *The Descendents*), Kate Winslet and New Canaanite **Tony Goldwyn**. . . . Despite the rather lackluster response so far to his post-guvernator movie career (*Escape Plan*, anyone . . . see it, that is?), Arnold Schwarzenegger stars in *Sabotage* (April 11), a high-tech knockoff of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians,* shot, in part, in **Hartford**. . . . Roxbury's **Denis Leary** appears in the football flick *Draft Day* (April 11, go figure) with Kevin Costner and Jennifer Garner, and reappears in the Amazing Spider-Man franchise—as, we can only assume, the ghost of Captain Stacy—alongside **Campbell Scott** (*The Amazing Spider-Man 2,* May 2). . . . The ubiquitous food-truck trend gets comedic treatment in *Chef* (May 9), directed by and starring Jon Favreau (with his *Iron Man* stalwarts Robert Downey Jr. and Scarlett Johansson) and featuring **Dustin Hoffman** and **Oliver Platt**. . . . Funny story: Favreau was *supposed* to direct *Jersey Boys* (June 20), the film version of the Tony-winning musical about the rise of '60s singing group The Four Seasons, but along the way Clint Eastwood (go figure, again) got attached instead. We'd give anything to watch him direct Westport's **Christopher Walken** as the Seasons' mentor (and notorious Genovese crime family member) Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo. At least we can read Eastwood's records of the project at the **Wesleyan University Cinema Archives.** . . . Connecticut's other big film producer, Westport's **Harvey Weinstein,** recently told CNN's Piers Morgan that he wants to make a gun-control movie with **Meryl Streep.** We say "good luck with that," but in the meantime, *Big Eyes*—a biopic of painter Margaret Keane, starring Amy Adams—is due this summer. . . . Author **Suzanne Collins'** Hunger Games movie juggernaut soldiers on; *Mockingjay—Part 1* (Nov. 21) adds Julianne Moore, Lily Rabe (daughter of Jill Clayburgh and playwright **David Rabe**) and, allegedly, John Cusack to the killer mix. . . . Forget Meryl Streep? Not us! Once again, her "big project"—the long-promised **Stephen Sondheim** musical *Into the Woods* (Dec. 25), for which Sondheim wrote a new song—is being held for the holidays, but she'll also star in *The Giver* (Aug. 15) with Jeff Bridges, and in *Hope Springs* costar Tommy Lee Jones' *The Homesman* with daughter Grace Gummer. | P.G. |

| in brief |

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Banana Bandit
In January, an unidentified man broke into a Citgo gas station mini-mart in Newington by repeatedly backing his car into the glass entrance doors, and once gaining access to the store, took a single banana from a shelf, peeled and ate it. The man, who wasn't wearing a mask or trying to hide his identity, then walked out of the store and into the night without taking any other items, eventually leaving the scene in a Ford Freestyle station wagon.

Data Trail
The state of Connecticut has announced that it's following the lead of 39 other states and creating an online data portal that will aggregate information from various state agencies in one place. Maintained by the Office of Policy Management, the goal is to provide greater government transparency to state residents by making available collected data from such diverse entities as the departments of Criminal Justice and Social Services. The site is planned to launch before the end of March.

Say What?
Four Connecticut public universities (UConn, Central Connecticut State University, Wesleyan University and Connecticut College) earned a "red light" in the annual "Spotlight on Speech Codes" report from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)—a nonprofit foundation that supports free expression and academic freedom at U.S. colleges. According to FIRE, a red light indicates that a university maintains policies that "clearly and substantially restrict protected speech." Yale University, the only other state school on the list, earned a yellow light, suggesting it only "over-regulates" campus speech.

Labor Pains
In January, the state Department of Labor inadvertently sent out tax forms to 27,000 individuals who collected unemployment compensation in 2013 that included personal information about other individuals. The top portion of the forms had data—including social security numbers—about one person while the bottom half had data about the other. The Department of Labor immediately moved to correct the error, which was blamed on a mistake in the printing process, and has offered credit protection to those affected.

Watch That First Step
A 30-year-old man miraculously survived after falling 10 stories from a Stamford apartment window and landing on a parked car. The [unidentified] man sustained multiple injuries—including two broken elbows and a shattered pelvis—but had minimal internal bleeding. Stamford police said there was no sign of foul play; the man was moved to Westchester Medical Center in late January for further treatment of his acute injuries, including an expected extensive reconstruction of his pelvis.

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JAMES PROSEK:
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James Prosek, *Zebra*, detail, 2014. Oil, acrylic, and mixed media on panel. 45 x 56 in., Courtesy of the artist and Schwartz • Wajahat, New York

This exhibition is made possible by a grant from the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Beer for the Cure

IT'S A TOUGH JOB, BUT TODD RUGGERE IS UP TO THE TASK

When the Massachusetts native Todd Ruggere finished a beer tour of his home state last year, he wanted to do it again—this time in Connecticut. He is going to drink a beer in every town in the state this year and raise funds for cancer research in the process.

The original idea hit the 39-year-old—a processor at The Bank of New York when not quaffing beers—when he realized he had been to less than half the towns in Massachusetts. He decided he would visit every town and have a beer, while helping sick kids. By tour's end, he raised nearly $43,000 for a Massachusetts cancer institute.

"I like beer. I like to talk to people and socialize," says Ruggere. He kicked off his Connecticut tour at Stratford's Two Roads Brewing Co., his main sponsor. Since January, he's been driving to Connecticut every weekend in his shiny SUV plastered with sponsors' logos as well as a big cartoon version of himself holding a beer and proclaiming, "Todd's CT Pour Tour."

Ruggere says he's had three or four bars reach out to him in some towns, each wanting to host his visit. He lets his online followers decide which bar he should go to, and considers advice from locals as well. Everywhere he goes, he is greeted by enthusiastic followers, some who even bring their cancer-stricken children to share their stories.

In Wolcott, a man with cancer told him the impact the tour had on him. Mayor Thomas Dunn also presented Ruggere with a certificate of appreciation at the event. "To see someone from Massachusetts coming to Connecticut and stop at every town, helping kids, is great," says Dunn. "It's something different. It's cool."

Ruggere says he's recognized now when he goes into bars. "It's still so strange that people say they want to meet me. I didn't anticipate it at all," he says. "I love it because I want to meet as many people as I can."

Ruggere wants to raise more money with his Connecticut tour than he did in Massachusetts, even though the state is half the size. The tour is scheduled to end in September.

| SHAKO LIU |

Stepping Out

1

1. More than 600 guests attended the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Hartford Alumnae Chapter's **Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast** at Hartford's Connecticut Convention Center. Sponsored by United Technologies Corp. (UTC), the event has awarded over $200,000 in renewable scholarships to talented female high school seniors from greater Hartford over the last 29 years. Pictured *(l-r)* are scholarship recipients Daniella Arthurs and Kayla Smith; keynote speaker Dr. Paulette Walker, national president of Delta Sigma Theta; Dantaya Williams, director of workforce diversity for UTC; and Veronica DeLandro, president of the Hartford Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. *(photo by Mary Miller)*

2. Talk about elaborate concepts: The Mark Twain House & Museum (MTHM) 2013 gala, **All That Glitters . . . An Evening in the Gilded Age**, reflected the dramatic contrasts of that turbulent time as depicted in a novel Twain coauthored, *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*. Guests enjoyed a lavish dinner at the historic Hartford Club (of which Twain was a member), silent auction and live entertainment. Taking advantage of their chance to hob-nob are India Liddell of Grunberg Management *(at left)*, and Patti Philippon, MTHM's Beatrice Fox Auerbach Chief Curator. *(photo by John Groo)*

2

3. Cancan dancers from DFX Entertainment show off their terpsichorean bona fides at the MTMH bash. *(photo by John Groo)*

3

4. Sparkling at the **Snowflake Preview Gala** of the 2013 Fairfield Christmas Tree Festival, held at Burr Homestead, are Marty Schwartz, president/CEO of Bridgeport's Kennedy Center, and *(l-r)* festival cochairs Laurie Zollinger, Dottie Kellersman and Kathy Flynn. Proceeds from the festival benefited the Kennedy Center's Artist Cooperative, a new program beginning this spring. *(photo by Stuart Walls/Woodstock Studios)*

4

5. Elaborate concept No. 2: The Greenwich Historical Society launched Antiquarius 2013 with an opening party at the Greenwich Winter Antiques Show titled **"Meet Me at the Beverly Hills Hotel"**; among the festivities enjoyed by more than 400 guests were performances by "Marilyn Monroe" and "Frank Sinatra" set in a re-creation of The Polo Lounge. Pictured are some of the Antiquarius VIPs in attendance: *(standing, l-r)* Chuck Niemeth, John Henry Moulton, Jerry Cotrone, Sabrina Forsythe, Tiffany Burnette, Don Casturo, Catherine Tompkins, David Tompkins, Chuck Royce and Ron Strackbein; *(seated, l-r)* Anne Niemeth, Mimi Moulton, Deborah Royce and Davidde Strackbein. *(photo by Elaine Ubiña)*

5

To submit photos, contact Pat Grandjean at (203) 789-5223, or pgrandjean@connecticutmag.com.

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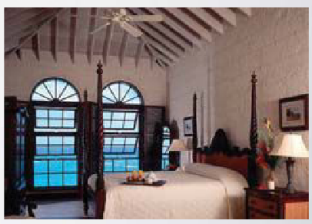

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THE PIED PIPER

Carlos Núñez is the Celtic bagpiper from Galicia, Spain, who brings audiences to their feet. He's captured the world with his Galician *gaita* by embracing the music of many cultures, including Spanish flamenco, Argentinian tango, Cuban, Brazilian and Mexican rhythms and rock 'n' roll. As a teen he toured and recorded with the renowned Chieftains. In recent years, he's performed with Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne, Ry Cooder, Sinead O'Connor, Laurie Anderson, Carmen Linares, Montserrat Caballé and the Buena Vista Social Club. This month, he'll charm concertgoers out of their seats at Garde Arts Center in New London.

CARLOS NÚÑEZ
MARCH 5, 7:30 P.M.
GARDE ARTS CENTER, NEW LONDON
860/444-7373, gardearts.org

JAVIER SALAS

JEWISH FILM FEST

Mustafa Nadarević *(left)* portrays a Christian music professor who discovers his Jewish heritage in *When Day Breaks*, one of two dozen films to be presented at Mandell JCC's **The Hartford Jewish Film Festival** March 20-30. Features, documentaries, shorts and even a little Jewish kitsch illuminate Jewish life, history and culture. Parties, concerts and lectures are also scheduled. Eight residents of the Jewish Home in Fairfield who starred in *Next Year Jerusalem* join film director David Gaynes of Weston at the film's screening. Dr. Robert Braun of Fairfield, who was one of the boys saved from the Nazis as depicted in *50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus*, will speak after the screening. *For titles, venues, schedules, locations & tickets, call 860/231-6316 or visit hjff.org.*

MAPLE SUGAR TIME

The sap is running and the Stamford Museum and Nature Center is celebrating with its **Maple Sugar Festival Weekend** on March 1 & 2. Visit Heckscher Farm's little red sugarhouse to see how the sweet nectar is turned into delicious maple syrup. On Saturday, local teens prepare dishes made with the syrup in the Teen Chefs Challenge, and on Sunday, there's a pancake brunch. *203/977-6538, stamfordmuseum.org.*

SAVE THE DATE!

On March 9 gather ideas for a dream wedding at **The Connecticut Bride Expo 2014.** Meet top wedding pros, sample delectable foods, see the latest wedding fashions and win prizes, including the grand prize—a honeymoon getaway to The Crane Resort in Barbados. And there's even a new "man cave" that attends to the groom's wedding needs. Preregister online for a $5 discount and to enter the honeymoon drawing. At the Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway 11:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m. *To preregister, visit theconnecticutbride.com, or purchase tickets at the door.*

BLUEGRASS QUEENS

Mandolin virtuoso Sierra Hull *(below)* played with Alison Krauss at the Grand Ole Opry when she was 11. Since then, she's performed just about everywhere, including Carnegie Hall and the White House. Now 22, she tours with her band Highway 111. On March 21, Hull joins forces with fellow musical prodigy Courtney Hartman, guitarist with all-girl bluegrass quintet Della Mae, in concert at the Spaceland Ballroom in Hamden. *203/430-6020, guitartownct.com.*

LEAPIN' LEPRECHAUNS

On March 7 Bristol's Imagine Nation Museum's **First Friday Leapin' Leprechauns Festival** will have the whole family doing a jig. The Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers will perform traditional Irish music and revelers will get to kiss the Blarney Stone and go on a pot-o'-gold treasure hunt in a special greenscape exhibit. *5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission $6. 860/314-1400, imaginemuseum.org.*

See March 2014 calendar listings at
connecticutmag.com/calendar

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Actor, writer, composer, pianist and—let's not forget—stand-up comedian **Paul Reiser**, 56, seemingly dropped off the show-business radar after his classic NBC sitcom "Mad About You" ended its run in 1999. Now he's back with two new movies (and a third shooting next month), a TV show in the works and a return to live performance—which brings him to Foxwoods March 15.

PAUL REISER
FOX THEATER | MARCH 15, 8 P.M.
foxwoods.com

You've played Connecticut in the past, right? I must have, years ago, though I've never played Foxwoods. Here's the crazy thing: I don't remember. I didn't do stand-up for 20 years. In 1992, when "Mad About You" started, I temporarily put it on the back burner—then I got busy and forgot to take it *off*. When the show ended I was content being at home on the couch. It's only in the last year or so that I've been doing casinos, theaters and some clubs that I started my career at, where I'll say, "Gee, I've never been here before" and they'll go, "Well, here's a photo of you from '83."

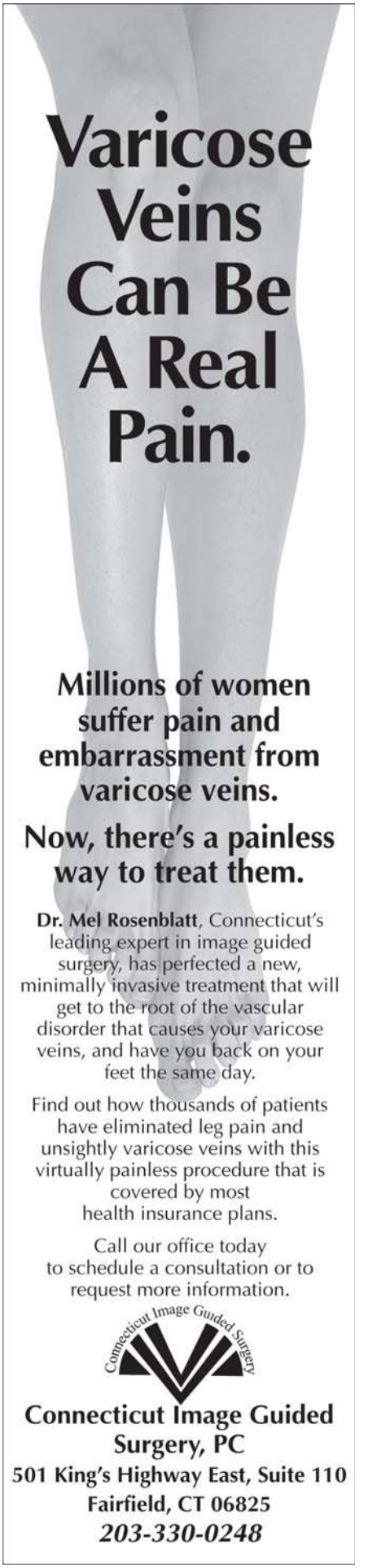
What drew you back to doing stand-up? I always meant to go back to it—it's like putting up shelves in your house; you tell yourself, "I'll get to it." I kept putting it off because I wanted to do it *right*: I didn't want to fall back on my old act, and I didn't want to go out unprepared. Until recently, my only times on stage would be at the occasional charity event. Finally, I did one that was just a really fun night with a great audience, which sealed my decision to perform more regularly. Here's how I learned I'm getting old—I called up a local club I used to play, and asked, "Can I just do 15 minutes? I want to try out some new material." They said, "Sure, come on down; the show starts at 10." I actually said, "At *night?* I don't think I can do 10 at night." I had to change my body clock.

You were in the HBO Liberace movie* Behind the Candelabra *recently. Only if you looked quickly. It was a very spur-of-the-moment thing. I got a call, and they said, "Do you want to come in and work for two days with Michael Douglas and Matt Damon?" Yes, thank you. It was the kind of thing I'd been looking to do for the last couple of years, small roles in quality projects—and such a no-brainer: great script, great cast, great director. It sort of began a new period of making movies for me. I did two independent films last summer that screened at the Sundance Film Festival in January—one a pretty intense drama, called *Whiplash*. The other, *Life After Beth*, is a comedy about a young girl who dies and comes back as a zombie. That kind of thing is normally so not my taste, but this movie is hysterical.

The main movie I associate you with is Barry Levinson's* Diner*. How much of the dialogue in that was improvised? My dialogue was *all* improvised, because I had no part on paper—my character, Modell, had a name but no lines. So Barry would come over to me while shooting a scene and give me the tiniest suggestions to riff on, like "Ask [that character] for a bite of his sandwich."

When I watch episodes of "Mad About You" now, I'm still blown away by your chemistry with Helen Hunt. That was fortuitous happenstance. Helen and I met because of my wife Paula; one of Paula's close friends was also friends with her. I met her at a dinner party this mutual friend threw while I was still writing the show. As we were leaving, I said to my wife, "She'd be good as Jamie, wouldn't she?" Once I finished the pilot, Helen came to my house and we played with the script and it felt frighteningly real. She's just so smart; her brain and funny bone are really sharp.

What are your favorite episodes of the show? One comes from the sixth or seventh season, in which we're sitting outside our baby's door trying to get her to go to sleep using the Ferber Method ["The Conversation"]. What I loved was that that show was shot in one continuous take—there was no cutting, no "scenes." It was the kind of thing we'd wanted to do since Season 1 but never could find a story compelling enough to let Paul and Jamie just sit and yap for 22 minutes. Helen's father Gordon Hunt directed that beautifully. It was a great episode. | **P.G.** |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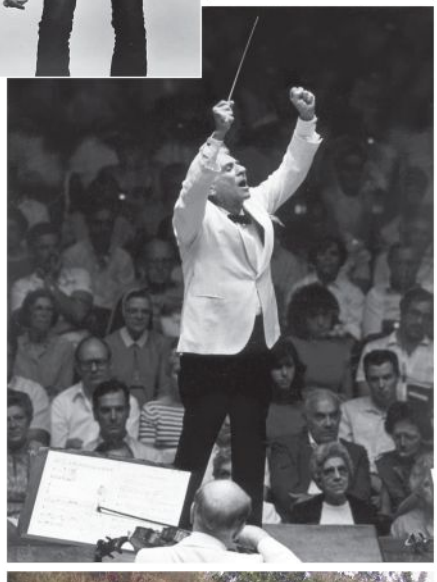
Fairfield Rocks for its 375th



FAIRFIELD'S ROCKIN' TOP TEN

THROUGH APRIL 28
FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
203/259-1598, fairfieldhs.org

Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Tina Weymouth and Chris Frantz, of The Tom Tom Club and Talking Heads, along with singer José Feliciano and music producer Nile Rodgers were all in the building for the Fairfield Museum and History Center's opening of ***Fairfield's Rockin' Top Ten***. The exhibit kicked off the festivities for the town of Fairfield's 375th anniversary by celebrating some of the area's more renowned sons and daughters.

Ten legendary musicians and musical acts are featured in a delightful collection of rare photographs, music videos and personal belongings. Artists include Weymouth and Frantz, Feliciano and Rodgers and Bernard Edwards of Chic (Rodgers shared Grammy Awards this year with Pharrell Williams and Daft Punk for Record of the Year "Get Lucky" and Album of the Year "Random Access Memories"), as well as Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson, The Remains, Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein, Dave Brubeck, Keith Richards and Donna Summer. Musical performances and lectures have also been scheduled to accompany the exhibit.

On March 29, José Feliciano will perform. Visit the website for details. *Pictured above, clockwise from top:* Nile Rodgers, Keith Richards, Donna Summer, The Remains, Leonard Bernstein, Tina Weymouth and Chris Franz and Richard Rodgers rehearsing with Julie Andrews for *Cinderella*. | C.P.R. |

THE REMAINS: ED FREEMAN; LEONARD BERNSTEIN: FRANCES BARKAS/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; KEITH RICHARDS: PIETA CARNEVALE (HIRO); RICHARD RODGERS WITH JULIE ANDREWS: PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN ORGANIZATION

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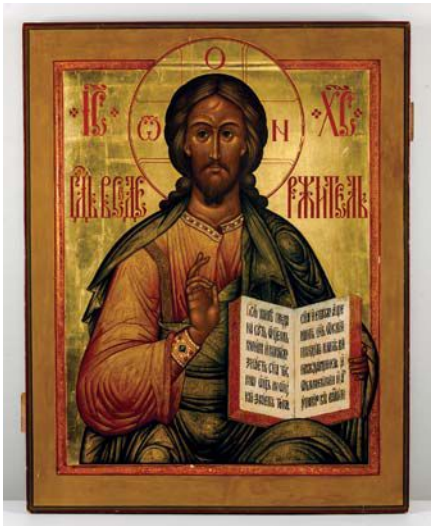
Russian Icons, Sacred Art

Stunning religious works of art are revered as historical treasures.

Western Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter on the same day this year, April 20, as the date coincides with both the Gregorian and Julian calendars. The date may shift, but traditions remain firm.

One of the most enduring Russian Orthodox traditions is the devotion to sacred icons, which are referred to as "windows into heaven." Some say praying with one can produce miracles.

The Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven is exhibiting more than 225 of these historically significant works in ***Windows into Heaven: Russian Icons & Treasures***. The installation is divided into four sections, each devoted to specific icons: Christ ("Christ the Pantocrator," *pictured*), Mother of God, Saints and Angels and Divine Liturgy. Some of the icons, dating back as far as the 1500s, are painted according to Byzantine tradition in brilliant egg tempera colors on wood, many ornately adorned with gold leaf. A collection of other liturgical and devotional items are also on view. | C.P.R. |



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Shannon Miller, Life Coach

Battling cancer requires a person to fight like a champion. That's a lesson U.S. Olympic gymnast **Shannon Miller** learned firsthand after she was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer at just 33 years old. By the time this happened, she had already won seven Olympic medals (at the 1996 games in Atlanta she led the "Magnificent Seven" to the U.S. women's first team gold, and she became the first American to win a gold medal on the balance beam). Then in January 2011, the most decorated gymnast in American history began a fight for her life.

"My diagnosis was quite a shock—you just never think it will happen to you," she says. "Mine was a rare type of ovarian cancer that tends to target women in their teens and early 20s. The cancer was diagnosed early, during a routine exam. My husband and I were ready for baby number two, and I went in to make sure everything was okay, but the doctor found a cyst, which turned out to be a malignant germ cell tumor."

After surgery to remove the tumor, Miller endured a nine-week course of chemotherapy. "At first, after treatment, I thought the sun would shine and the birds would sing, but it doesn't work that way," she says. "I was still sick as could be, still tired, and still bald, so the biggest hurdle was to realize these things weren't going to change right away and that it was going to take baby steps."

Like a champ, she put her game plan into action, and a year later she became pregnant with her daughter. She's currently cancer-free and keeps busy with her family and her company, Shannon Miller Lifestyle. "We encourage women to make their health a priority, and not feel guilty about it," she says. This month she'll discuss her experience in the **CT Challenge Speaker Series**. She says, "It takes the support of not only nurses, doctors and family but also from people who have lived it—those who can say, 'hey, it's going to be okay, there's life after this.'" | C.P.R. |

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Terry and Sarah Paquette bring live music to Putnam five nights a week.

PETER WEBER

Something to Stomp About

The Quiet Corner has been a little less quiet since **The Stomping Ground**—"Food, Music, Beer and Art in Putnam"—came to town a year–and-a-half ago. And we mean that in a good way.

The Stomping Ground features an eclectic format of live music five nights a week, a rarity these days, and the only venue like it for miles around. "We really stick to that five-nights rule," says Terry Paquette, who co-owns the place with his wife, Sarah.

"We have bands from all over playing jazz, folk, bluegrass, rock 'n' roll, reggae, Delta blues, really everything but heavy metal," he says. Regulars include Roosevelt Dime, Big Jon Short, Otis Grove and the Ed Tomassi Group. Sundays it's open-mic night. "We've found amazing talent through that."

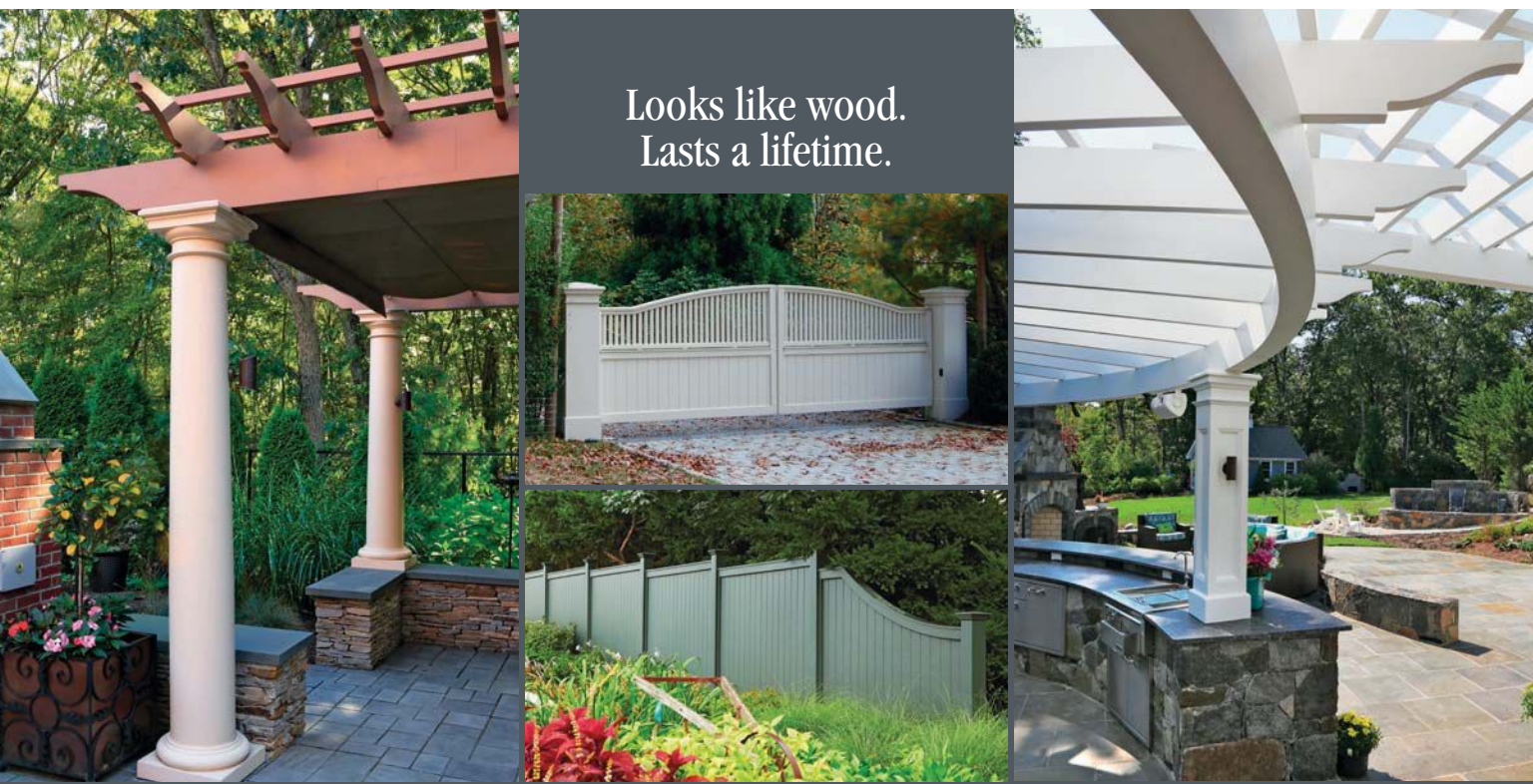
The Paquettes opened The Stomping Ground in June 2012. Terry's a musician, Sarah's an artist, and both had been chafing at unsatisfying jobs at an electric business (albeit for Terry's dad) for a while. "I love live music, and I've driven all over to see it," says Paquette, "but I kept wondering, 'Why don't we have the bands come to us?'"

"We started having parties in our living room at home. We'd invite a few musicians to play and just pass a jar to pay them something. People loved it. A couple of them said, 'You should do this for a business.'"

The Stomping Ground has a full bar, a decent wine list and 10 craft beers on tap. And the food is anything but run-of-the-mill. "We make everything from scratch—all in a kitchen that's only 10-by-8 feet," Paquette says. There's a long roster of grilled-cheese sandwiches with names like "David Byrne" (grilled chicken, Gorgonzola, tomato) and "House of Pain" (applewood-smoked bacon, Cheddar, caramelized onion, baked potato); exotic-sounding potpies (e.g., the "De Niro," stewed chicken with figs, cremini mushrooms and Marsala); burritos, quesadillas and Guinness stew.

It sounds like Putnam has something to stomp about. As the Paquettes like to say, "We're making a little noise in the Quiet Corner."

Open Wednesday through Sunday. For the March schedule, call 860/928-7900 or visit the-stomping-ground.com. | V.S. |



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Science Fun

Enjoy a nerdy day at Connecticut Science Center and leave with a smile.

If you've ever witnessed how big a marshmallow gets after a minute in the microwave, you've experienced the sheer fascination of science. That's how I felt after I visited the **Connecticut Science Center** in Hartford recently, which celebrates its fifth anniversary this summer.

The César Pelli-designed glass structure with a magic carpet roof is a futuristic marvel that has redefined the Hartford skyline. Inside, a 143-foot atrium separates two towers packed with 150 hands-on exhibits in 10 galleries, and it's all certified green.

There's something for everyone. We began our tour at the top. Glass elevators whisked us up to Level 6, where there was a roof garden with a spectacular view of the Connecticut River and a hurricane chamber and a weather station where you can create your own weather forecast and TV broadcast. And there was an animatronic Dilophosaurus *(above)* that made us roar. Energy City illustrated a model city for sustainability—I loved the 1950s chrome kitchen set used for its carbon footprint display. We touched meteorites in Exploring Space and had fun with a "mind ball" in The Picture of Health. And in Sight and Sound we danced on piano keys (like they did in *Big*) and played airball in Forces of Motion, which also featured robots, racecars and sailboats. But wait, there's more: Kidspace water-play area for tiny tots on the the main floor, 3-D movies, scavenger hunts and exhibits (see real mummies in *Lost Egypt* through May 4).

The best thing happened on the way out—I got a hot air balloon to rise to the ceiling! You should've been there. *860/724-3623, ctsciencecenter.org.* | C.P.R. |

For more information, see page 98

Accelerated Master of Business Administration Program

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Southern Connecticut State University is creating an accelerated Master of Business Administration program that will enable hardworking professionals to obtain their degree in 17 months.

"The accelerated MBA program will be as rigorous as the traditional program, but is designed to meet the needs of a wider group of students by offering classes at more convenient times," said Samuel Andoh, director of the SCSU MBA program. Most of the courses will be a hybrid – split evenly between on-campus classroom work and an online component. The on-campus portion would be conducted on Saturdays.

The program, which begins in August, includes 51 credits. The courses will be taught during nine eight-week sessions and students will generally take two courses each session with a one-week break between each session. The final component of the program is a special project.

Most of SCSU's traditional MBA students are part-time and it usually takes three years to complete the program. Even full-time traditional MBA students generally require two years to earn the degree.

For information about eligibility and other questions about the new program, call (203) 392-5616 or (203) 392-5860.

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Warm Up to Running

HOW TO GET FROM THE SOFA TO THE FINISH LINE, NO MATTER YOUR FITNESS LEVEL.

BY MARIA LaPIANA

If you can walk 30 minutes a day, four to five days per week, for at least two weeks, then the pundits at *Runner's World* magazine say you're ready to run.

But running—one of the most natural and fundamental of human movements—has become a bit more complicated than that. It is still a very good, convenient and cost-effective way to stay fit, yet it's also one of the most overanalyzed forms of exercise. And, according to Running USA, a trade association for the industry, it can be pricey. Americans are participating in running events at record levels, and in so doing spend billions on shoes, apparel, gear and entry fees every year.

Runners run for all sorts of reasons (now that we no longer need to chase down dinner): They do it to get fit, lose weight, build confidence, compete and sometimes, just to get away from it all.

"The interesting thing about running is that people, when they get the bug to run, usually take it to an extreme," says Dr. Matthew Hall, a sports medicine specialist at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. "We don't know why exactly, but they tend to run not just for fitness. There's a culture of training for a race, whether it's a 10K or a marathon. It may be something that's on their bucket list, or as they get older, just something they feel a need to prove."

That determination often translates into a much larger goal than just getting one's heart rate up. "From a financial standpoint, it can get very involved, with people buying high-level sneakers, clothes, watches—doing all of that stuff. No question, running generates a lot of income," says Dr. Hall.

But at the end of the day, running is basic, and all you need to get started, he adds, "is a fairly new pair of comfortable shoes."

Fits and starts

Running, jogging (running at a slower pace) and even walking require a minimum level of fitness: Don't expect to roll off the recliner and run a marathon, even if you consider yourself to be reasonably fit. "If someone has not done a lot of activity, then it's really important to have general heart-health screenings to determine if they're fit enough, and that no other testing is recommended," says Dr. Hall. "This is especially true of men in their 40s and 50s, to determine the risk of a cardiovascular event." Those with known heart conditions, a prior heart attack, with diabetes or uncontrolled hypertension or high cholesterol don't need to stay on the couch. "It just means they need to take it easy," says Dr. Hall.

In fact, pacing yourself is one of the most important things every runner, new or seasoned, should do.

Julia Wholey of Canton participated in sports and ran, although not competitively, from 9th grade into adulthood—until she had a child. "Then I took a 15-year break," she says, laughing. When Wholey, now in her mid-50s, retired from her job as a counselor for the state of Connecticut, she got back on track. Literally. "The Monday after I retired I decided to start running again," she says. "It was hard. I went a quarter of a mile and I could barely catch my breath. I had to take it very slowly. After a while, I could go a half mile, then a mile. It took a good three months before I really started to feel comfortable and could run three miles straight—without pain."

Ready to take the next step, Wholey signed up for the Canton Lobster Loop, a 5K fun run. She was quick to let people know. "Telling people you're running is very affirming," she says. "You can't back down. That was my first little goal, and I set the bar pretty low. I told myself I just didn't want to be the last person crossing the finish line. And I wasn't. In fact I did okay for my age and group, I came in smack dab in the middle of the pack."

For Wholey, running is a personal undertaking, as it should be for most people—even if it seems that everyone around you is always talking about his or her new shoes, latest race, best time.

In the beginning it can be both counter-

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productive and dangerous to compare yourself to others. Dr. Hall advises newbies to "know yourself. Know who you are." Be honest in determining your current activity level and if you're truly sedentary, take baby steps.

Choose a flat, safe surface, like a high school track, because it's best to take traffic and rocky, rutted roads out of the equation at the start.

Walk briskly for 30 minutes every other day. When you feel comfortable with that pace, move up to a jog. Alternate walking and jogging until you're able to run at a slow pace for the entire time.

How will you know if you're moving at an appropriate pace? Recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Can you get to the end without huffing, puffing or gasping for breath? Good. This common "talk test" is a convenient and widely used methods of determining if you're exercising too hard. The idea is that you should be able to carry on a conversation while running. If you can't then you're taxing your cardiovascular system and you need to slow it down.

Dr. Hall further advises that you "listen" to your body. If after a run, you're very sore, then take a day or two to recover.

You want to avoid injury at all costs. "It's really great to see people getting out. It's the best thing we can think of," says Dr. Hall, "but it's not so good to see them coming in with

glossary

Serious runners have a language all their own, tossing around words like anaerobic capacity (a runner's maximum ability to run very fast) and fartlek (bursts of speed in the middle of a workout) with abandon. But as a newbie (a beginner who often learns the basics by training for a short race, like a 5K) here is all you need to know:

warm up Getting loose for a run by increasing your heart rate and blood flow to the muscles in order to reduce the risk of injury. You can do this by walking or jogging for 10 minutes, or by stretching.

stretching There are two basic types: Static stretching is when you hold major muscle groups in their most lengthened positions for at least 30 seconds. Dynamic stretching involves controlled movements that increase flexibility, power and range of motion (lunges, squats and leg kicks).

form This is your running technique. In brief: You should try to keep your upper body relaxed but upright and swing your arms back and forth at low 90-degree angles.

foot strike This is the way your foot hits the ground (mid-foot, toes or heels). In general, light steps that land directly under the hip help minimize impact and reduce injuries.

pace Commonly used to describe the time it takes to clock one mile. It's also used with reference to the length of a run (marathon pace, 5K pace, etc.).

cadence A runner's cadence is the number of steps taken per minute while running. This is sometimes also known as stride turnover.

cool down Just as important as the warm up, this is a way to transition your body to a resting state after a run. You can cool down by slowing your pace or by stretching.

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so many overuse injuries." Being overzealous can get you in trouble.

While 30 minutes a day is a good rule of thumb, it's not an exact science. And remember, if you're running for heart health or on the recommendation of your doctor, it may be enough to just get your heart rate up, to sweat and to burn calories. The goal is not the distance, but the time spent out there.

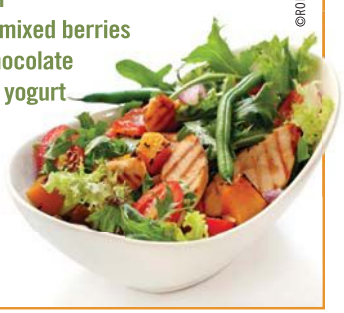
David Hall is an engineer and running coach from West Hartford who knows how important it is to work your way up to competitive running. Hall had run in college and while in the military, but his interest was renewed when he started to officiate soccer in 2002. His occasional runs in the off-season became more frequent and in time he developed a passion for the sport, so much so that he started informally coaching family and friends. He's now certified (by USA Track & Field) to coach athletes in all running, jumping and throwing events. He's also certified by the Road Runners Club of America as a distance running coach. Hall works with runners with varying degrees of intensity. For some, he simply develops a program based on their fitness level, time commitment and overall goals. Others want a digital analysis and professional opinion of their form and a more rigorous training regimen. Some just want someone to run with. At least 75 percent of his clients are women: "Most guys say they don't need help," says Hall. But those who do seek out his expertise usually have an "ulterior" motive.

Jon Chlebowski is a public safety officer

food for thought

Proper nutrition is key to any form of exercise, and running is no exception. In general, beginning runners will want to stay fueled with the following foods, according to *Runner's World*:

- Almonds
- Eggs
- Sweet potatoes
- Whole-grain cereal with protein
- Oranges
- Black beans
- Mixed salad greens
- Salmon
- Whole-grain bread
- Frozen stir-fry vegetables
- Whole-grain pasta
- Chicken
- Frozen mixed berries
- Dark chocolate
- Low-fat yogurt



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at Fairfield University who was struggling to qualify for the police academy when he met Hall. Try as he might, the 40-year-old father of three couldn't reduce his time from the required 1.5-mile run to make it to the next qualifying level. "I took the test three times," Chlebowski says. "The first time, I started running on my own a month ahead of time. I thought my lungs were gonna pop out of my mouth. I figured I just needed to get conditioned, but it wasn't enough."

The next time he took the test, he aced the other fitness skills, but not the run. Says Chlebowski, "my nerves were crazy and I missed it by a good 40 to 50 seconds." After that, he says, "I had something like 17 people giving me advice, and I just didn't know who to listen to," he says, "until I started training with David. He assessed my condition and came up with a plan." Chlebowski made swift progress but he wanted to be sure he'd pass, so he delayed taking the test for another month and stepped up his cross-training instead.

"Every week he'd send me new routines and kept me on track. That gave me confidence. When I finally took the test again I shaved 52 seconds off my time," he says. "It was tough. I was working a late shift at the time, so I had to bring my stuff and run at midnight, at a nearby track with a headlamp on."

Being accountable to Hall and letting people in on his mission made all the difference to Chlebowski: "I really recommend that you let people know you're going to do this. Nobody wants to say 'I'm starting P90X on Monday,' and on Thursday, say 'yeah, um … I'm not doing that anymore.' The most important thing though, is to have a plan."

These days Julia Wholey has gone from the kick of a community run to the euphoria induced by distance running. But it hasn't been easy and she's been met with more than a few injuries along the way. "It's not all fun and roses," she says. "I'd pull a muscle in my calf, have to rest and ice it. Then soak and stretch it. Then something else would go wrong."

Wholey made a habit of toughing things out until she developed a serious injury—a stress fracture in her hip. Her doctor told her there was nothing she could do but take the winter off, so she did. When she got the okay to start walking and working out on the elliptical machine, she promptly did.

And when she got an invitation from relatives to run a half marathon this spring, she cleared it and then said yes.

"There absolutely has to be a strong motivation or desire to want to run because it is an arduous process," she says. "But stick with it and you will reach that wonderful point where all of your muscles are moving properly. It's not painful. You're breathing and all of a sudden it comes together, and you think, 'this is really, really good.'"

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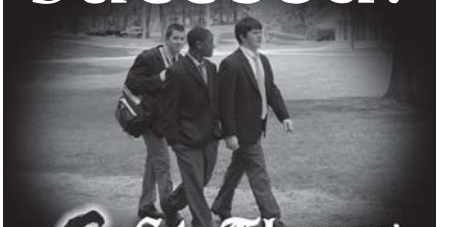

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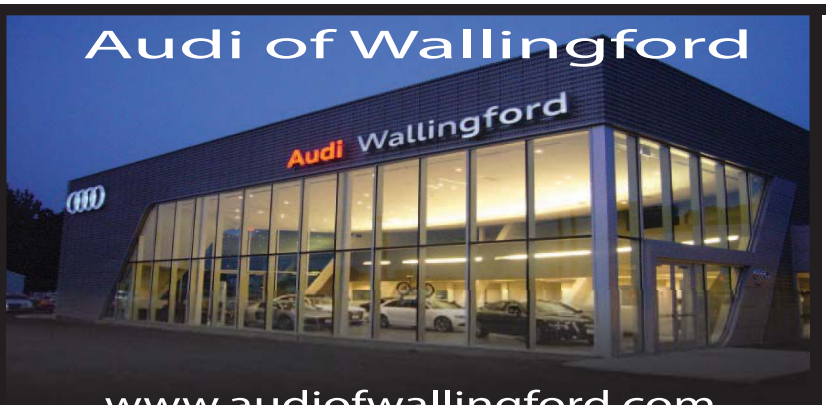

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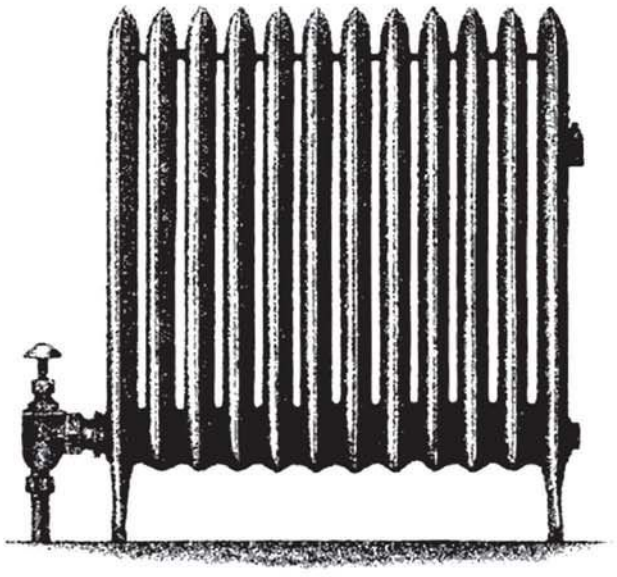

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DYLAN CONNOR: BLOOD LIKE FIRE

BY JACKSON CONNOR | PHOTOS BY ARNOLD GOLD

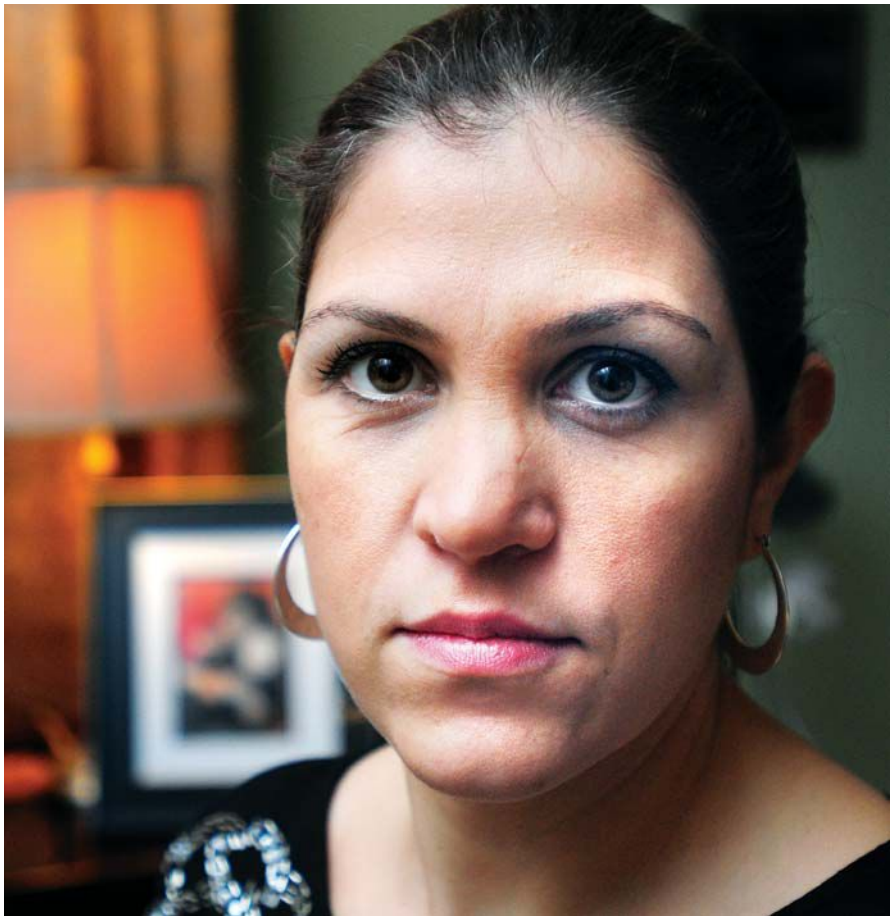
Dylan Connor with his family at his home in Stratford. *(Left to right)* Ragheda and Taha al-Hariri, Dylan, his wife Reem holding Jude, 7 months, and Fayrouz, 5.

IN 2007, YEARS BEFORE THE WAVE OF PROTESTS, RIOTS AND CIVIL WARS KNOWN AS THE ARAB SPRING WOULD SWEEP THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST, DYLAN CONNOR HAD A PREMONITION. FRAGMENTED IMAGES OF BOMBS FALLING FROM THE SKY, MEN BEING BEATEN IN THE STREETS, ASHES SCATTERED OVER THE GROUND, THE FEELING OF DROWNING....

Newly married, Dylan had just returned from his first trip to Damascus with his wife, Reem, a Syrian studying at the University of Bridgeport whom he met singing karaoke at a bar one night. It's a trip the 38-year-old Westport native remembers fondly—meeting his extended family for the first time, taking in the sights of one of the world's most ancient cities, performing music at local clubs. He and Reem planned to visit every other summer once their daughter, Fayrouz, was born. But hidden somewhere beneath the surface of a bustling metropolis, a fervor was boiling, the first hints of revolution Dylan believes he was able to tap into with his songwriting.

"I wrote this tune called 'Blood Like Fire,' and it was very dark," recalls Dylan, poking at a few smoldering logs in the fireplace of his Stratford home, while Reem and her mother are busy preparing dinner. "Very dark. And it really had no light at the end of the tunnel. The song ends by saying, 'I once was lost, but now I'm drowned.' I thought, 'Hey, this is a great song,' but I didn't know why I wrote it, or why it was so dark."

After a moment, he adds, "It was definitely from the realm of dreams."



FAST-FORWARD TO THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2011 and the Arab world has erupted into a fury of pro-democracy demonstrations, some peaceful, others turning shockingly violent. Thousands of men and women in Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan and Iraq have taken to the streets demanding change from their governments. Dictators are being ousted from seats of power they've held for decades.

Watching the events unfold on TV, Dylan and Reem—along with much of the world—didn't believe the protests would ever reach Syria. The Syrian regime led by President Bashar al-Assad was too brutal, too merciless, to test. In 1982, Hafez al-Assad, Bashar's father, massacred some 20,000 people in the town of Hama in order to stamp out an uprising led by the Muslim Brotherhood.

"They were saying, 'There's no way it will hit Syria. No one in Syria is willing to go up against that regime, because they know it will be so violent,'" says Dylan. "We were all excited by Egypt and Tunisia, but [people] maintained until the day it happened that it would never happen in Syria . . . But it did. And it was pretty scary."

The videos first came to him through YouTube, too graphic to be shown on cable news. Clips of soldiers firing on peaceful protesters, lifeless bodies being dragged through the streets, children dying in hospital beds. Soon Dylan was engrossed by what he calls the "YouTube Revolution," scouring the Internet for hours in search of more news out of a distant country he had come to think of as a second home.

"It was just video after video after video," he says. "Every Friday [people] would go out and protest and get gunned down. Every single Friday. And the numbers grew and then dipped and then grew. I just mined YouTube and I assembled these images and had someone put them together to my song 'Blood Like Fire.'"

The song is indeed dark, and eerily prophetic. A moody, Johnny Cash-style chord progression plays while Dylan croons, "Our bones like wire, our blood is like fire," over and over, his voice dipping in and out of a glassy falsetto. The same words flash across the screen in Arabic as the chorus plays, making the video simultaneously a wake-up call to average, apathetic Americans and a sign of solidarity between Dylan and the Syrian activists pleading for freedom almost 6,000 miles away.

The response to "Blood Like Fire" was overwhelming. The video quickly amassed thousands of views on YouTube, spurring

A family of unexpected activists *(top left)* Dylan Connor, at home with his guitar, has become an unlikely muse of the Syrian pro-democracy rebellion; *(bottom left)* Reem Connor, who met Dylan when she was a student at the University of Bridgeport, has many friends and family still active in the resistance; *(top right)* Taha al-Hariri, Reem's father, a former general in the Syrian army under Hafez al-Assad, fled the country after his wife's release; *(middle right)* Ragheda al-Hariri, Reem's mother, took to the Syrian streets when the first anti-regime protests broke out and was quickly arrested; *(bottom right)* Dylan and Reem's daughter, Fayrouz, serves as a reminder of what the family is fighting for.

Dylan to write more anti-regime songs in the hopes of lifting the spirits of demonstrators in the Middle East. Consequently, pro-democracy Syrians sing his lyrics in the streets of Damascus. They march in protests carrying banners adorned with his name. His face has appeared on stamps for the revolution. He is, for some, a symbol of hope.

Still, despite the powerful effect Dylan's music has had on the Syrian people, a song is not an army. The civil war rages on, and men, women and children continue to be slaughtered by their own government with little help from the outside world—a fact Dylan is acutely aware of. "I don't carry a gun, I write songs," he says. "All I can say to you, 6,000 miles away, is that I hear you. Yes, I know nothing's being done, but we are not our government. There are people here who do care."

IT'S A COLD, SNOWY NIGHT IN JANUARY, and the large dining room table in Dylan's home is covered with platters of food. There's a small mountain of *kepseh*—spiced chicken and rice with almonds, the national dish of Syria—homemade hummus, pita bread, thick and creamy chicken soup, salad, spaghetti squash, steamed Brussels sprouts and what Dylan calls "Arabic burritos," an invention of Reem's mother.

"Here, when you have somebody over for dinner, you cook one meal, vegetables, salad and that's it," says Reem. "This is like the minimum that mom can make. She's pushing herself to comply with American culture."

Reem's mother and father, Ragheda and Taha al-Hariri, are originally from the province of Horan, where the very first anti-regime protests broke out in March 2011. During the initial week, Ragheda—a woman in her 60s, by then a grandmother—took to the streets with the other demonstrators, unable to stay silent any longer. She was promptly arrested and thrown in jail, where she shared a cell with bloodied and beaten men.

"She's saying it's been boiling inside of her and everybody for years, this wasn't just a spontaneous thought," explains Reem, translating for her mother. "For her, all of her kids were outside the country. Usually the regime will go after your family, so she said, 'Even if they arrest [me], they can't really hurt [me].' She can't bear the thought of not saying what she wants to say anymore."

Ragheda was released after only one day in prison, but the message was clear: The time to leave Syria is now. If she or her husband were arrested again, they might not be so lucky.

At first, the plan in 2011 was for Dylan's in-laws to visit for just a month or two, until things blew over. But as the family watched guns turn into tanks, tanks turn into bombs, bombs turn into sarin gas, and protests transform into full-scale war, the hope of returning home dimmed, as did the prospect of peace.

Dylan, for his part, began to write again. This time foregoing the abstract poeticism of "Blood Like Fire" for simple chord progressions and pointed, topical lyrics sung in a mixture of English and Arabic. The chorus for the song "Feza Feza" is taken from a phrase that Dylan and his father-in-law would chant around the house during the early days of the revolution, a time when a communication blackout made it virtually impossible to tell if family members back home were alive or dead, free or jailed. "Feza feza la Horan. Feza feza la Suria," they would shout together. "Help, help for Horan. Help, help for Syria."

The object of Dylan's anger and contempt in these new songs is no longer ambiguous, either. Instead, it has a name: Bashar al-Assad. The tracks that help comprise Dylan's latest record, *Blood Like Fire: Songs for Syria*, are not just pro-democracy, they are strikingly anti-regime. On the song "Weary World," he calls Assad a "mouse" parodying his name which means "lion" in Arabic. On "Not a Civil War" he cries, "This is not a civil war, it's a revolution. We lift our voices up, the regime drops ammunition."

Reem's father, Taha, is a retired general in the Syrian military who served under Hafez al-Assad. He says it feels like a "mafia" is running the country, not a government—members of the Assad family controlling the presidency, as well as facets of the economy and the military for years. A former air force pilot, he taught Bashar al-Assad to fly during the dictator's youth.

"He says when he taught Bashar, he was like an idiot," explains Reem, translating for Taha. "Not an idiot in terms of he didn't know what was happening, but he had zero personality. He didn't really have charisma. He would come to the academy just like anybody else, dressed not even properly. No one thought that he would actually turn into what he is."

"If we knew, I would have assassinated him," adds Reem, speaking for herself. "If I had a crystal ball to tell me he was going to be this in a few years, I would have definitely killed him."

Despite the obvious anger from his wife, Dylan, through marriage, has been adopted

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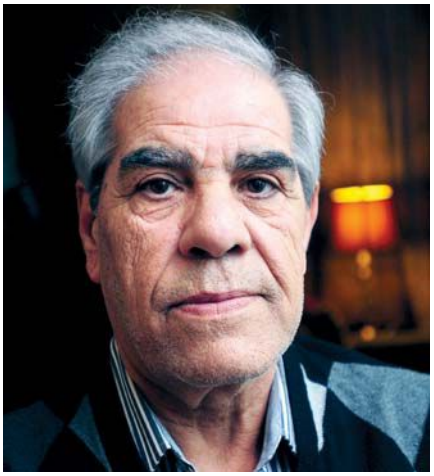


ART

Brad Guarino's "Passing Through" consists of fifty steel silhouettes scattered throughout the new Building 600 at Tunxis Community College in Farmington.

LESSONS

by Kate Hartman

Are state taxpayers getting what they pay for when it comes to the Art in Public Places program?

Next time you're driving through Farmington—on your way to the capital city or the Westfarms Mall, perhaps—take a detour to Tunxis Community College and check out the latest addition to your art collection: Brad Guarino's "Passing Through."

Fifty steel silhouettes scale the walls of the new Building 600, peeking around corners, talking beside the elevator and stepping off light fixtures. Like them or loathe them, they're yours because you chipped in—however fractionally—to pay the artist a whopping $90,000 to create them.

If you live and pay taxes to the state of Connecticut, you're an art collector. It's all part of the state's Art in Public Spaces program, which has bought public art for new and expanded Connecticut buildings for the last 36 years—to the tune of $14.5 million.

SOME EXPENSIVE PROJECTS

Connecticut law currently requires that not less than 1 percent of the cost of construction or renovation of publically accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork for that building.

As with most things, good intentions were the genesis of Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program. Adopted in 1978, the state was one of 11 jumping on the public-art bandwagon. The program was designed to "provide citizens of Connecticut with an improved public environment by investing in creative works of high quality for public buildings," according to the state's Culture and Tourism website.

Today, there are 27 states with similar formal programs to allocate a portion of building costs for art acquisition. Over 300 municipalities across the country have versions of their own—including three in Connecticut.

Since the law was enacted, the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) has commissioned or purchased over 400 works in a variety of mediums including sculpture, wall relief, environmental installation, painting and photography. Works appear in 30 towns across the state, forever changing the office buildings, courthouses, state colleges and universities, public schools and municipal buildings.

At best, the process of adding new artwork to the collection is tiring, at worst it's maddening. Between fluctuating budgets, differing opinions, fabrication setbacks and delays, there can be any number of roadblocks. The person charged with keeping everything on track is Tamara Dimitri, the Art in Public Spaces Program Specialist of COA.

Her job begins the minute a potential state building project surfaces. Pulling from the Art in Public Spaces Artist Registry, she recommends potential good fits, which can be from within the state or around the country. Dimitri does "reserve some small projects for Connecticut artists who have few experiences so they can create their portfolios," she says, citing Guarino as an example of one such artist.

A site committee composed of building users, the project architect and a panel of arts professionals is appointed to better understand the facility and decide which artist is best suited to the task. The pool is narrowed down to four or five standouts, who are then asked to create a site-specific proposal on a stipend. Based on those presentations, the committee creates another short list, repeating the process until a final decision is made.

According to Dimitri, the right piece of public art for any project "needs to connect and have a dialogue with the space and connect with the community." Whether it's a painting, photo, mosaic or sculpture—the artwork has to make sense in the place it's located in and to the people who utilize it. More importantly, it should force people to notice it.

"Public art is about creating a discourse," says Stephen Hard, executive director of the Greater New Britain Arts Alliance, who operates the town's Percent for the Arts program. "The worst thing is that it will be ignored. You can like or dislike it, but not ignore it."

KATE HARTMAN

SILHOUETTES

Brad Guarino's project at Tunxis was born out of discourse. The silhouettes began with an essay contest in which students were asked to describe their journey to the school. From those responses, students, alumni and faculty were selected to pose for a photography session with the artist. Each participant was given a $250 stipend.

Guarino took photos of his subjects hiking and engaging in similar activities, which were then enlarged, flattened, redrawn and translated into an auto-cad format so they could be laser-cut out of stainless steel. The result is a permanent piece that is directly tied to the school's population at the time of installation.

The conversation surrounding the project will continue with a website Guarino intends to create. Each student's essay will be posted, accessible by clicking on their corresponding silhouette, so visitors can have the same connection to the artwork that Guarino has.

As he walks through the cavernous two-story building, Guarino points out each silhouette, calling them by person's name and remembering their stories. If he saw the students on the street years from now, he would still recognize them—that's how personal this project has been for him.

He named the piece "Passing Through" for the transitory nature of college. It was largely inspired by *A Bend in the River*, the history of Tunxis written by former professor Edward Ifkovic. Ifkovic, whose own silhouette is forever frozen on the wall, suggests that community college is "akin to life on the American western frontier. Out West, in the early days of exploration, no one asked about your past . . . you were, quite simply, judged by your present behavior and morality."

As an adjunct art professor at Eastern Connecticut State University and UConn, Guarino shares the mindset—that college is just one step in a person's journey. Many of his silhouettes have a backpack or a bag, signifying what we carry with us through our lives.

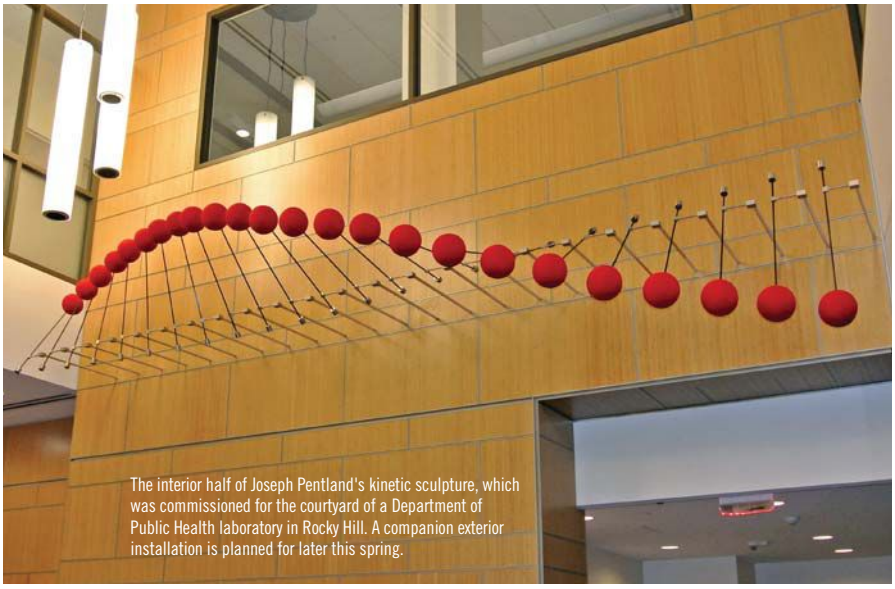
Guarino finished the installation in January, the final step in a very long and challenging initial foray into the world of public art. "Passing Through" represents a series of firsts for the artist—the first time working with a new medium, stainless steel (he is typically a painter), and the first time he was commissioned to create a piece of public art.

"It's not for the faint of heart," he says of the process. "It's frankly been one of the most stressful things I've done in my whole life."

Guarino was selected from the Connecticut Public Arts database to compete for the commission in April 2010, and was awarded it that June. He spent the next three years going back and forth with the college's selection committee, a process he refers to as "contentious" at times with certain members of the committee "just not getting it."

Tim Prentice's "Red Zinger" as it appeared when it was first installed at Bradley International Airport. After falling into disrepair, the installation was put in storage.

CERVIN ROBINSON



The interior half of Joseph Pentland's kinetic sculpture, which was commissioned for the courtyard of a Department of Public Health laboratory in Rocky Hill. A companion exterior installation is planned for later this spring.

Tunxis president Cathryn Addy admits she was initially skeptical of the project. She appreciates Guarino's willingness to take the suggestions of the committee.

The project as it stands today is very different from the idea he first pitched. In his preliminary design, Guarino wanted to have stainless steel rock climbers scaling the walls of the Building 600 atrium. That plan was quickly nixed for fear that life might literally imitate art. "I didn't really think that students would be climbing the walls but if they can sleep better at night, that's okay," he says.

He went back to the drawing board to address the concerns of the institution. It wasn't until last May that he took the photos. He made a final proposal to the committee complete with official photographs in early summer, but it wasn't until Sept. 1 that Guarino was given the official go-ahead. He then enthusiastically jumped into the creation process.

Last-minute issues with the fabricator, insurance and screws that needed to be specially ordered were just a few of the issues that threatened to derail the project. He installed the last figure on Jan. 19. His stress was unquantifiable at times, but now that it's done he says it's all been worth it. The collaborative process with the committee resulted in a "much better project for the school."

"Now that it's on the wall, I'm very happy with it," says Addy. "He captured the essence of a community college student body. I love not only the silhouettes but the idea it will be somewhat interactive."

"When I've talked about the difficulties I've had in terms of certain members of the committee that just weren't getting it, a lot of people have said to me, 'Well, you're not going to compromise on your ideas right?'" says Guarino. "But public art is different. It's not all about my idea."

THE RIGHT QUESTION

It can be a hard pill to swallow for artists who want to stay true to their vision, but it's one that even well-known public artists have forced down to get a project off the ground.

Celebrated Cornwall artist Tim Prentice, of Bradley International Airport fame, has gone toe-to-toe with site committees. For him, the mere idea of a committee waters down the artistic vision because it has to "please everyone." When considering a project, site committees will ask themselves, "Are they going to like it?"

"Who are 'they'?" asks Prentice. "That's not the right question. The question should be 'Do *I* like it?' When you're using public money that can be hard, but you can't know if 'they' will like it. You can only know what you like." And what the artist likes, because as Prentice is unafraid to admit, he has to like the piece to even be willing to sell it.

In the public-art game, there are a lot of moving parts. If even one cog malfunctions, the whole machine can fail, resulting in artwork that doesn't make an impact—or worse, doesn't get made at all. Like "Passing Through," many public artworks have suffered from committee revisions and adjustments.

Prentice hasn't been immune either, refining his work with the tides of opinion. In the case of his first, and perhaps best-known public art installation in Connecticut, Prentice suffered the worst fate of all, watching it fall into such disrepair that he preferred to take it down than watch it hang in mangled glory.

Prentice exploded onto the state public art scene in 1987 with his 230-foot-long kinetic sculpture, named "Red Zinger" for its vibrant vermilion color. The state paid a pretty penny for the piece—approximately $54,000. (Prentice speculates if it was commissioned today, "Red Zinger" would cost closer to $300,000.) For a quarter of a century, the undulating masterpiece hung above the ticket counters in the airport's Terminal A, acting as the state's unofficial greeting committee.

But over the years, the paper-thin aluminum plates took a beating—from bored passengers shooting paperclips at it while they waited for their flight, an unbalanced air conditioning system that warped some sections of the piece, and a construction crew that moved and remounted the piece during airport renovations without the artist's supervision. Prentice says he repeatedly asked to fix "Red Zinger," even offering in 2009 to remove the damaged plates and shorten it—to the tune of $10,000.

"It needed maintenance like anything else," says Prentice—something he believes the state Commission on Culture and Tourism was unwilling to do.

Instead, the piece was taken down two years ago. Prentice is okay with this—the strength of his public art portfolio stands on its own. He has four other airports under his belt, and has pieces hanging in 28 states and as far away as Taiwan, Japan, India, Ireland and Australia.

In the end, he asked himself if he was better off with "Red Zinger" missing from his portfolio or looking bad. The choice was clear. "I'm glad it's not there looking all screwed up," he says.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

In the history of the Art in Public Spaces program, some prominent pieces have been met with resistance—there is a thin line between good and bad public art, and often that distinction is in the eye of the beholder.

In 2011, the beholder was state Sen. Paul Doyle (D-Wethersfield) and the line was very clear in his mind—the program was a waste of money in the face of the state's projected deficit. He introduced a bill to eliminate it. "I was trying to figure out a way save money for the state," says Doyle. "The bill was immediately very controversial."

Also representing Rocky Hill, he focused on a pending building project at the Department of Public Health. The *Hartford Courant* reported that the project was going to cost an estimated $75.9 million, with $493,000 going toward art. Kinetic artist Joseph Pentland had been commissioned to install a 22-by-5-foot rotating cylinder in the courtyard—his first foray into public art.

Doyle questioned the commission because the building is largely restricted and not utilized by the public. He says he was open to the idea of negotiating the law to only restrict 1 percent projects to public buildings but the conversation never got to that point because the arts community "blasted on it" at a public hearing. "I testified in favor of it, but everyone else was against it," he says. "It became an arts community issue."

State Sen. Joe Markley (R-Cheshire), a self-proclaimed devotee of the arts, is also critical of the law—not because of the investment in art, but because it doesn't give the taxpayers a choice. "My bottom line is it should be left in the pockets of the taxpayers," Markley says of the funds. "Let them spend it as they see fit." He questions the program's ability to create art with lasting merit, and says that if the state feels it has a responsibility to improve the artistic taste of the average person, a better way to do that would be through education.

"What I really would object to is the thought, 'let's take 1 percent of a public construction project for art and then, at the same time, take music teachers out of public schools,'" says Markley. "If there's any place arts funding will create a new audience, it is by doing it in the schools. I see schools that are super strapped, and the only thing they can do is get rid of arts teachers. That's a crying shame. That strikes me as a worthy cause for the state to get involved in."

For his part, Pentland doesn't believe his project was threatened in any real way by what he terms a "fake controversy" that went away without much fanfare. Ultimately, the bill never went anywhere due to the backlash.

The artist finally began installing his cylinder in January. The piece is comprised of 24 separately operated red balls that have the capability of following any programmed rotation. The plan is to utilize varying formulas to generate different patterns on the sculpture. A touchscreen will allow anyone to change the patterns and learn about how they relate to the research.

Like his predecessors', Pentland's process was not without incident, but it had more to do with unforeseen complications than conflict with his site committee. "We were in agreement the entire time," Pentland says. "The only decision was whether I was going to hang the interior piece off the wall . . . but we both agreed it would be more elegant to have it coming through the wall—to be part of the wall."

When the ground thaws in late April or early May, Pentland will begin to install the exterior sculpture. It will look similar to its interior relative but will have different colored balls and only follow one repeating pattern. "We discussed early on in the process the juxtaposition of the exterior piece running a single program," he says. "Then you go into the building and see a different-but-connected idea to the exterior piece."

For some, like artist Jo Yarrington, the question of good public art versus bad public art is a waste of time.

"I think all art is public art," says the Fairfield University professor, who's known for the large-scale translucent photographic images she installs in the windows of buildings. "It actually doesn't matter whether [the art] is good or bad—without [the Art in Public Spaces program], it wouldn't happen. Nothing would happen and no one would put something aside unless they were forced to do it. There are a lot of ways to spend the money, not all of them good. We know that in this state and many others."

In Prentice's opinion the categories are broader than good and bad. "There's art and no art," he explains. "Bad art isn't art." For him, the mark of good public art is when it makes an impact on people during the brief time they experience it. "If you're going to be there for five minutes, then it needs to do its thing in five minutes," he says.

Artist Danielle Mailer, who has completed three pieces of public art in her career—two in Torrington—calls the medium of public art "a vital part of culture." "Public art reaches people who don't go to galleries," Mailer says. "When the art is good, it can alter or move people. It's a way people can be introduced to art."

OPPORTUNITIES

With the state's ongoing desire to build in bigger and better ways, Dimitri says the Art in Public Spaces program receives steady funding. There are currently three projects with open Request for Proposals (RFPs) across the state, totaling approximately $718,000, including projects at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Central Connecticut State University in New Britain and A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford. It will likely be years before the public gets the opportunity to see these big-ticket purchases—additions to their art collection.

So, with the seemingly endless possibilities for controversies in public art, why do artists continue to create and why does the state continue to fund it?

"Because it brings you out of your skin," suggests Prentice. "If it's good, the best you can hope for is someone looks up and sees something they haven't before."

THE AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT

Ellen Griesedieck's personal vision has taken on a very public face.

JUDY GRIESEDIECK

When it's complete, the American Mural Project (AMP) could be the largest piece of interactive indoor artwork in the country—in Winsted, of all places. That's if it's ever finished.

After 15 years, over $3 million and the work of over 10,000 children, another five years and millions of dollars are still needed to complete Sharon-based artist Ellen Griesedieck's 3-D mural honoring the nation's work force. When completed, it will stand 120 feet long by 48 feet high by 6 feet deep, and will depict a range of professions, from construction workers to surgeons, teachers to truck drivers.

Griesedieck first conceived of the mural in 1999 after creating a series of paintings of working Americans. AMP was incorporated in 2001, and has received donations from various entities including Newman's Own Foundation, the Alcoa Foundation, Connecticut Light & Power, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and TD Bank.

Arts education has been part of Griesedieck's process since the beginning. She has hosted creative workshops around the country, encouraging children to create their own art to be included in the final product—children from 16 states have contributed to the mural so far.

"It's not a paint-by-numbers," Griesedieck explains. "That doesn't give [children] any creative problem-solving experience out of it."

Ultimately, all 50 states will be represented. "When you have a great idea, it kind of builds on itself. You don't get it all at once," says Griesedieck. If it had, she says she never would have started.

A small piece of the mural remains to be fashioned, but a bigger roadblock is the funds necessary to restore the two factory buildings in Whiting Mill that Griesedieck purchased in 2006 to house the work. She chose Winsted because of its proximity to Sharon—when she first embarked on the project her children were young and she wanted an easy commute. More importantly though, Winsted is a "town built on the work the mural celebrates," she says.

The vision is to create a "destination" in Winsted. Winding ramps will allow people to see the mammoth mural up close. "The kids are going to be in this jungle of art," says Griesedieck. An atrium will connect the art space to an interactive visitors' center that will include a theater, studio space, classrooms and additional exhibits. Long-term plans include expanding the parking lot and creating a woodland park for summer concerts. "This building is going to be as big as the Parthenon," laughs Griesedieck.

The space, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has gone through an extensive cleanup made possible through a federal Brownfields grant. In January, AMP formally requested a $3 million bond from the state to raise the building's roof 25 feet to allow for the installation of the mural, the opening of the museum facilities and renovation of the second building where the visitor's center will be. State Sen. Clark Chapin (R-Brookfield), state Rep. Jay Case (R-Winchester), U.S. Congressman John Larson and Winchester Town Manager Dale Martin all wrote formal letters to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy seeking support.

Should the state not come through, AMP will have to go back to the drawing board. Griesedieck admits they can't go much further without significant additional funding. "You can only go so far without the help and if it doesn't seem important enough to people, then I was wrong," she says. "How does that go down to all the kids I've promised this to? The answer is I let every kid know when they start working on this, here's what it's like to work on a crazy idea. If you believe in it, don't let anyone talk you out of it."

She's seen the impact AMP has had on children across the country. Griesedieck herself has been forever changed by the mural, and she hopes, when it's finally complete, it will continue to impact visitors for years to come.

After 15 years, she's still believes in her crazy idea. "Why do I think it's going to happen?" Griesedieck asks. "Because I do."

(top) Alexander Calder's 50-foot-high "Stegosaurus" has towered over the Alfred E. Burr Memorial Mall since 1973.

(inset) One of the most recent commissions by the Greater Hartford Arts Council, "Song of Books" by Brooklyn artist Howard Kalish is installed in front of the Albany Avenue branch of the Hartford Public Library.

JACK MCCONNELL

THE DEFINING PHOTO

THE ONE PERCENT

Hoping to capitalize on the potential lure of public art, Hartford ramps up its Percent for the Arts program.

From "Stegosaurus" to "Stone Field," Connecticut's capital has had its fair share of talked-about, even monumental, public art, but Hartford still lacks the glow of world-class culture as a successful drawing card. The salutary effect of Calder's big orange preconception-crunching work outside the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art only goes so far.

Now, going "all in" on the funding-public-art game, Hartford is considering bright lights to go with its big-city appeal—a light-art-as-beacon installation for a cityscape that already has enough cultural offerings to make it "shine" at night.

It may all be possible with the launch of Hartford's Percent for the Arts program this spring, which pledges that 1 percent of city money be invested in capital improvements to fund public art. The ordinance has been on the books since 2009 but was dormant until Mayor Pedro Segarra began funneling resources into cultural and art programs after election in 2010.

"Our creative economy drives business, it drives jobs and innovation and it's why I'm committed to growing it," Segarra said in a statement. "I'm excited about this program and its potential to increase tourism in our capital city."

There is $600,000 sitting in the city's coffers for public art. Those funds can be used for up to three projects in any one fiscal year, with unused dollars rolling over.

The Marketing, Events & Cultural Affairs Division (MECA) has been charged with getting the program off the ground and keeping it in flight—a task Director Kristina Newman-Scott takes very seriously. "The last thing I would want is a big flanky object in the middle of downtown just because it's a big flanky object that's made by Jeff Koons," says Newman-Scott. "People will come to Hartford because it's doing this thing that makes sense in our city versus just being an object or a public art piece that they can see anywhere in the world."

She wants to make a statement with this first city-funded public art project—one that says, "We are Hartford," and she doesn't have a problem admitting the city is nowhere near the trend's cutting edge. "We have an opportunity now because there are so many cities who've tried and succeeded and tried and failed, that we were able to learn a lot and make smarter decisions," she says.

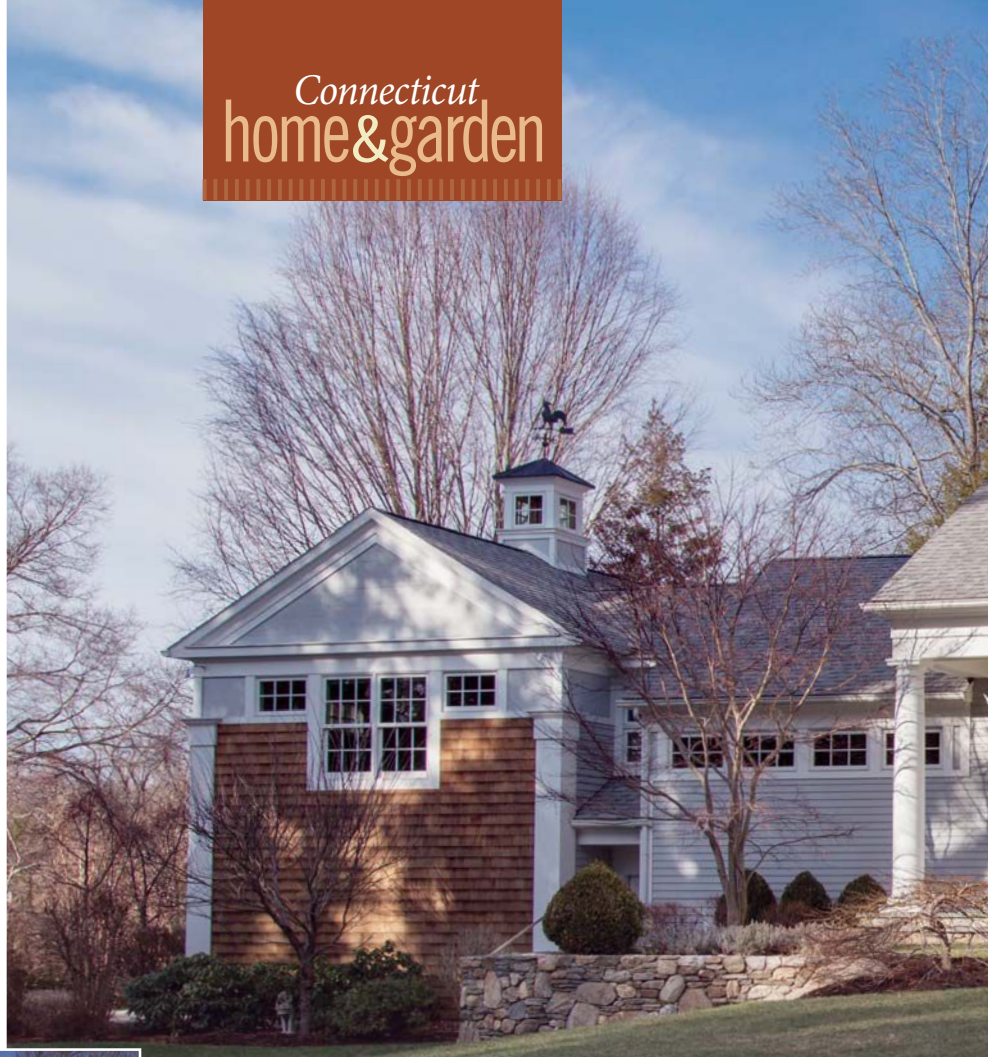
Between calls to other cities like Tampa, which has an extensive public-art program, and reading policy research documents on public art in London, Newman-Scott has been busy. She began writing program guidelines last winter and has consulted with Tamara Dimitri, the Art in Public Spaces Program Specialist of the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), who handles the state's Percent for the Arts program, on how best to roll out the city's version.

Contract documents also need to be drawn up before the first request for proposal (RFP) can be put out later this month. A partnership between MECA and the Greater Hartford Arts Council still needs to be finalized. The council has been responsible for some of the city's largest and most recent public artwork including the Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk—a family of 16 diverse sculptures along the riverfront—and its most recent project, "Song of Books," a sculpture by Brooklyn-based artist Howard Kalish that sits in front of the Albany Avenue branch of the Hartford Public Library. The council has commissioned 30 of the city's 79 permanent pieces of public art.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 50 |

The Way Home

They say that a house is a mirror of the self. In fact, most houses reside in the imaginations and sketchpads (or CAD programs) of quite a few people before we, their inhabitants, ever set foot in them. Every home is more than the sum of its parts. In this occasional series, we take a look at exceptional Connecticut homes through the eyes of the people who make them what they are today—from the architects who dream them up, to the homeowners who give them meaning.



Labor of Love

Because the home's elevation had to adapt to a site that rises in back, there is a considerable transition from garage to front door. Accentuating the positive, the landscape designer used natural stones to construct a low wall and wide, curvilinear stairs, making for a gracious entry.

THIS IS A STORY about a couple of empty nesters, no strangers to building houses from scratch, who six years ago found themselves in an enviable position. They had the perfect lot in the perfect town—and the means to design the perfect house.

Needless to say, this brave and creative couple went all in.

The wife (who asked for privacy, so we'll call her "the homeowner") took the reins on this project, having assumed the role of general contractor in the construction of the couple's previous residence, a family-friendly home in Avon.

They'd met a simpatico architect, Jack Kemper (of Kemper Associates Architects in Farmington), at a dinner party, and, says the homeowner: "There was simply too much synergy not to progress . . . so that is where the initial collaboration began."

The two worked very closely, with Kemper and architect Peter Clarke drawing up the plans—and the homeowner doing everything else. "I had complete control of the project, including design, putting everything

A savvy homeowner collaborates with a gifted architect to build a house in Essex designed deliberately to suit the life she and her husband live today.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARYN B. DAVIS

By MARIA LaPIANA

out to bid, oversight, ordering materials, resourcing lighting, plumbing, cabinets, flooring, etc.," the homeowner says. "It would be impossible to undertake this type of project if you didn't really love every aspect of the journey. It is an all-consuming job."

Listening attentively to how the couple wanted to live in their home now that their children were away at college, Kemper says the creative process went something like this: "We'd sit down and she'd talk about what needs to happen. I'd sketch at the same time. We had very interactive meetings and we reached conclusions right away, like 'this is good, bad, this is the direction we should go in.'"

The homeowner offers a more lyrical description: "I provide Jack with the 'notes' and he writes the 'song,'" she says. Her list of essential "notes" was long; among the requirements: an exciting entry, as "this is the first glimpse of the heart of the house," a great integrated open floor plan for public spaces; and a "glass-walled dining room that has the feel of a conservatory."

Location absolutely informed the home's design.

At the rear, the dining room, designed to evoke a conservatory or sunroom, opens onto a sheltered bluestone patio.

"This house really is all about form following function… it was not about a builder's spec house to be inhabited by some theoretical hybrid of a family. It wasn't about a realtor's resale dream. It was really about having the luxury, at a certain stage in life, to design a house around exactly how we enjoyed living." —The homeowner

"We have the privilege of living in the historic river town of Essex, and there are many beautiful and well-preserved antique homes here," says the homeowner. "We wanted to be certain the structure respected its surroundings and had a sense of place. It is indeed in the vernacular of the historic homes of the lower Connecticut River. In fact, I have been asked on numerous occasions if this house was a renovation."

Inspired by several architectural styles (Federal, Shingle, Greek Revival), Kemper says the house feels at home in Essex. "It's basically a Traditional, but we played with the proportions," he says. "We exaggerated the front two-story section and made the porch a little longer."

Details were of the utmost importance, inside and out.

The façade is framed by 18-inch corner columns and the fenestration was deliberate: Six-paned clerestory windows graduate to six-over-six second-story windows, and then to six-over-six-over-six main-floor windows. The front porch is punctuated by Ionic columns; three sets of 8-foot French doors are topped with custom transoms. The dining room is designed to appear like a vintage porch or sunroom.

"The house has a beautiful visual presence," says the homeowner, the perfect melding of "functionality and livability."

At 3,650 square feet, the house is a "nice size," says Kemper. It's very intentional in that every space is there by design, and every room is used."

"This house really is all about form following function . . . it was not about a builder's spec house to be inhabited by some theoretical hybrid of a family. It wasn't about a realtor's resale dream. It was really about having the luxury, at a certain stage in life, to design a house around exactly how we enjoyed living," says the homeowner.

The public spaces—kitchen, living room and dining room—are laid out open-plan style. There's also a first-floor master bedroom, sitting room and laundry. And on the second floor, there are

The wide-open kitchen is a symphony of white (detailed cabinetry) and wood (oak floors and pine counters). It's both practical and sophisticated, a defined space with integrated appliances, with the exception of the French range that radiates warmth long after cooking is complete.

A devotee of Palladio, the homeowner insisted on symmetry and a sense of "walking toward light" throughout her home. The elegant dining room (which the couple uses every day) is visible from the front entry hall, the main axis in the house. Walls of windows (inset) flood the space with light.

two very separate en-suite bedrooms, in addition to a large office and multimedia room over the garage.

Adhering to the concept that "all entertaining take place in the kitchen," the couple decided early on to "combine kitchen and living area into one large space separated by two large center islands," says the homeowner. Because the kitchen had to serve as a multipurpose space, they elected to integrate appliances with the exception of the range.

The cabinetry is striking; it makes a statement, with oversize base moldings and overscale cove molding, and is also accented by 10-foot coffered ceilings in the living room. The same goes for the kitchen and living room—there are no visual breaks to interrupt the flow, so "the rooms communicate in perfect harmony," says the homeowner.

Because she meticulously chose her subcontractors, the homeowner says construction went smoothly. She credits master framer Charlie Melanson of Mell Construction Co. in Simsbury as "the cornerstone to the success of the project." It was a bit of a family affair. "Charlie framed the house, installed windows and exterior doors. One of his brothers installed the clapboard siding and roofing. Another brother was responsible for the cedar-shake shingles on the garage," she says. Dave Benson, formerly of Avon, who is sadly no longer in business, completed all of the detailed cabinetry and interior trim work.

The house was quite simple to furnish and decorate, says the homeowner, "primarily because each room had an intended purpose. There are no awkward spaces in this house that need to be visually filled. There are no superfluous rooms. I think that is part of the beauty; everything was designed with intention."

Most of the furnishings are family heirlooms, or have been collected over the last 40 years. An 1840 English dresser dominates one of the kitchen walls—again, by design. Because everything is vintage and "lovingly collected or handed down over the years," it went together without trying.

The homeowner chose a neutral palette of creamy white and soft gray that allowed her treasures to be showcased and architectural details to shine.

What was the single most important (aka nonnegotiable) component of the design? The house had to be "a space where the spirit can soar and the soul can hide," says the homeowner, who points out that the entrance hall is the main axis, with rooms running off it. "With a nod to Palladio," she says, "there is a sense of always 'walking toward the light.'"

Order, simplicity and perspective informed every aspect in the home's design—from the upstairs hallway, simply furnished with a demilune table, to the X transom windows at the front, to the scale of the living room, with 10-foot coffered ceilings and bookcases that flank the proportionate fireplace.

RESOURCES

ARCHITECT Kemper Associates Architects, Farmington, 860/409-7155; *kemperarch.com.*

FRAMING, SIDING, ROOFING, INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS AND DOORS Mell Construction Co., Simsbury, 860/658-7313.

DOORS AND WINDOWS Custom, by Marvin, *marvin.com*, through Miner's Lumber, Collinsville, 860/693-1111; *minersinc.com.*

FRENCH RANGE By Lacanche through Art Culinaire, Woodinville, WA, 425/481-7500; *frenchranges.com.*

DINING ROOM CHANDELIER Niermann Weeks, *niermannweeks.com*, through Susan Gregory Interiors, Essex, 860/767-1245; *gregoryinteriors.com.*

FAUCETS By Kohler, *kohler.com*, through Cunningham Plumbing Supply, Old Saybrook, 860/339-0170; *cunninghamsupplyoldsaybrook.com.*

LANDSCAPE DESIGN, STONE WALLS AND WALKWAYS Artistic Outdoors, West Hartford, 860/233-7044.

PAINTINGS Bill Thomson, Ann Grimm.

Renovation Tips

As you prepare to make upgrades in your home, a few things to consider:

Do your homework. Before tackling any project, DIY or contractor-based, know everything that's involved, from prices of labor and materials to the extent of any work being done to approximate duration. Too often homeowners initiate a project and then halfway through realize that it was more expensive, involved and intricatethan they expected, which often produces a less-than-ideal final result.

From hot to not. Be wary of "hot" home trends. What might look super stylish and cool today may appear incredibly dated or just plain silly in a year or two. (Granite counters, which were all the rage a few years ago, have been eclipsed by lower-cost, lesser-maintenance quartz and concrete.) After investing significant time and resources, you may not be in a position to correct a lapse in judgment as soon as you would like, and thus, be stuck with an impulse decision for a long time.

Permits, please. You may be tempted to cut corners and save costs by skipping the permit process, but to do so is to take a huge financial risk. In addition to potential fines that could be incurred, most insurance companies will not pay if something goes wrong with work that was improperly done or wasn't up-to-code from the beginning.

Maintain consistency. If you bought an old farmhouse because you were captivated by its charm, then gutting it to put in a sleek, ultramodern kitchen with stainless steel appliances makes no sense. Be true to your home's architectural style by incorporating elements that are consistent with it.

Power surge. Given our ever-growing dependency on electronic devices, it's important to consider your home's electrical system during renovations, particularly with older homes. This should include not only increasing the number of outlets to accommodate all your gadgets, but also making sure that you are getting enough power to the places where you will use it. It's also critical to make sure that everything is code.

Right tool for the job. From replacing a faucet or removing wallpaper to breaking up a sidewalk or digging a hole for a new pool, there are dozens of tools specially designed to help you accomplish specific tasks. By using the proper equipment, you get the job done quicker and more efficiently, and often with less frustration. Who can put a price on that?

Don't cheap out. It's one of the oldest adages because it's indisputable: You get what you pay for. Investing in certain quality items, such as windows or flooring, often pays for itself in savings on related costs and durability as well as adding to the overall value of your home.

Expect the unexpected. If you've done a home-improvement project that cost as much as you projected, was completed in the time allotted and went exactly as planned—congratulations! You are within a rare minority. For the rest of us, it's always smart to figure in extra money to cover unanticipated developments and additional time for unforeseen delays, as there are always both—even in the simplest of tasks.

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Outside INFLUENCES

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1• Indoor/outdoor Clarion blue tile clock with thermometer and hygrometer, $129, at Seasons Too, Darien, *seasonstoo.com* 2• 10-foot-square cantilever umbrella $1,309, at New England Patio & Hearth, Wethersfield and Canton, *newenglandpatioandhearth.com* 3• Spark lounge chair by Don Chadwick for Knoll, $267, at Design Within Reach, Stamford, *dwr.com* 4• Wrought-iron planter with obelisk frame (about 7 feet high), $248, at Terrain, Westport, *shopterrain.com* 5• Riesling handmade soy wax candle in recycled wine bottle (many other wine fragrances available), $28, at Revay's Garden & Gift Shop, Broadbrook, *revaysgardens.com* 6• Steel polyhedron pendant lamp, $595, at Restoration Hardware, Westfarms, Farmington, *restorationhardware.com* 7• Satin-finish house numbers, $23.26 each, at Home Depot, New Hartford and other locations, *homedepot.com* 8• Baldwin door knocker in satin nickel, $71.40, at Klaff's, Danbury, *klaffs.com* 9• Bright blue (also in red and yellow) kink-resistant garden hose with crush-proof nickel-plated brass couplings, $69.95 each, at West Elm, Westport, *westelm.com* 10• Ceramic Kamala bird bath, $169.95, at Crate & Barrel, West Hartford, *crateandbarrel.com*.

BACKGROUND: © ALMOOND/ISTOCK–THINKSTOCK

An *objet* here, a planter there, and you've got a whole new look for your outdoor space.

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Styled by
MARY YOUNGLOVE

Photos by
ROBERT LEVIN

"They are excellent at what they do," says Newman-Scott. The hope is the council will handle administration on Percent for the Arts as they do for other MECA programs.

"We've had very preliminary discussions," says Elizabeth Hucker, director of community investment at the Greater Hartford Arts Council. "There's certainly an interest on our part."

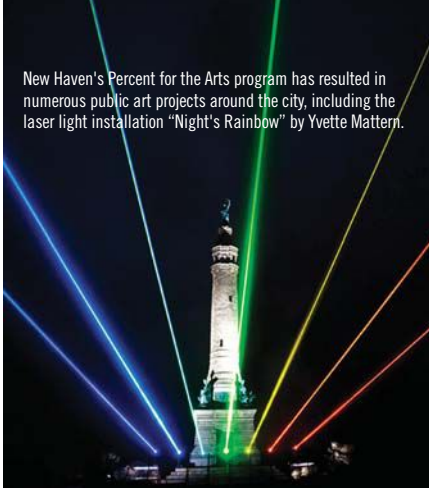
When all is said and done, Hartford will join the remarkably small pool of Connecticut towns with active Percent for the Arts programs—New Haven (first with such a program) and New Britain being the only others.

Still, these towns aren't exactly rolling in money from capital improvements, which are few and far between. Stephen Hard, executive director of the Greater New Britain Arts Alliance, says since the town instituted the ordinance a decade ago, they've only had two projects funded with 1 percent monies—the abstract sculptures "Home" by New Britain's own Craig M. Frederick, and "Ascension" by Carlus Dyer. A third piece, "Spiral Exchange" by Carol Salmonsen, has been already commissioned with funds stemming from a $42 million police station renovation.

New Britain's ordinance differs from Hartford's in that there is a monetary cap. Only up to $150,000 can be spent on public art instead of the full 1 percent—a stipulation Hard calls, "very limiting." He's unsure why the council would "cap the cap," and not account for inflation over the last 10 years, but says he respects the council's desire to be fiscally responsible.

New Haven has completed over 30 projects since their "Percent for the Arts" program was instituted in 1981, including "Ascending Birds," a sculpture in City Hall by David Von Schlegell, "Path of Stars" along Crown Street, and "Millennium Relief" by David Colbert at the Millennium Plaza. Vivian Nabeta, director of Arts, Culture and Tourism for the City of New Haven, says there will be a few school-construction projects in the next few years that they're hoping to get involved in.

Percent for the Arts may not be the public-art cash cow some had hoped, but towns across the state fill the gap through other programs and partnerships. Successful relationships have included New Haven's abstract 375th anniversary collaboration with Site Projects Inc. that lit up the night for four days last April with Yvette Mattern's laser light installation, "Night Rainbow." Last September, nine metered parking spaces in Hartford were transformed with sod and outdoor furniture into living art installations for 24 hours on PARK(ing) Day, a result of a partnership between The Greater Hartford Arts Council, the Hartford Business Improvement District and The Knox Foundation.



New Haven's Percent for the Arts program has resulted in numerous public art projects around the city, including the laser light installation "Night's Rainbow" by Yvette Mattern.

Why the push for public art? Municipalities who participate in these cross-departmental relationships do so for the same reason—because it creates more interest and foot traffic. "There's strength in numbers. If all of us are doing these projects, you get more bang for your buck working together," Nabeta says, citing projects in New Haven. "It gives more force to people coming out to see things because they're not just coming out to see one thing. It creates extra vibrancy."

That's why MECA isn't going it alone in the launch of their Percent for the Arts program. The more resources involved, the bigger the potential impact when the first city-funded art piece is finally unveiled. "Doing public art from a city perspective and overseeing it as a city is different than doing it as a museum or an art space," says Newman-Scott. "We will always have hiccups. Nothing is going to be perfect but let's be as thoughtful as possible before we roll it out."

Whether they splurge for the light show or go for something more traditional—another sculpture, perhaps—there's the hope this new artistic addition could boost the city's sorely lacking tourist appeal. "When the sun goes down, Hartford sort of needs something to make it more pedestrian-friendly," acknowledges Dimitri. "A light installation could really benefit the community."

Ideally, Newman-Scott would like to unveil a completed work by next winter in conjunction with some of the city's holiday festivities. The earliest she'd be interested in opening it would be September alongside the popular Envisionfest. Connecting the project with another Hartford attraction will hype its debut and draw more visitors.

Newman-Scott may be ambitious—and enthusiastic without question—but she's not unrealistic. While there's massive potential for this inaugural project, those involved are focused more on making the right choice versus the most ostentatious one.

"Six hundred thousand dollars isn't going to get me 'The Gates' in Central Park," she admits, "but we have an opportunity for an 18-square-mile city to really host an amazing artistic voice within the field of public art."

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See more **Connecticut Home & Garden** trends in the April issue.

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CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE READERS' CHOICE: BEST RESTAURANTS
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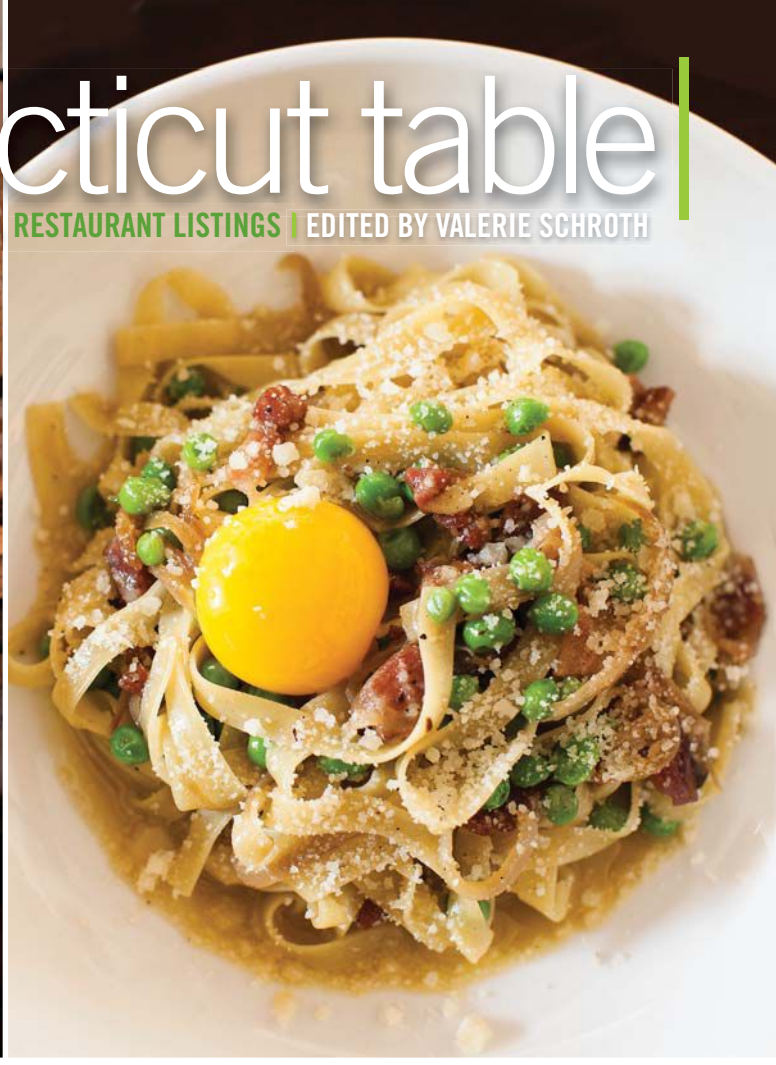

The New Culinary Math

BY ELISE MACLAY

WHY HAVE JUST ONE RESTAURANT WHEN YOU CAN HAVE TWO OR THREE?

As more and more talented chefs achieve success, more and more of them ask themselves if one restaurant is good, why not two? Or three? Or more. There are plenty of examples out there. Look at all those Maxes. All those Barcelonas. Look at Todd English, with enterprises ranging from Tuscany at the Mohegan Sun to Ça Va in Manhattan. Look at Mario Batali with his Tarry Lodges, Babbo, Il Posto and on and on. Who's next? We decide to go see.

Sorella ★★½
Hartford

Moving with the finesse and fancy footwork of a fencer or lightweight boxer, the young chef quick-steps right, left, forward and back as he maneuvers the long-handled paddle he uses to position four pizzas in a woodburning oven, where temperatures are meticulously controlled to vary from 900-1,000 degrees, at the top, to 750 at lower levels.

"Now I'm going to give this one a nice char," he says, and we watch as he raises, lowers and slides out the most authentic, perfectly charred Neapolitan-style pizza Margarita in downtown Hartford. The crust is paper-thin in the middle puffing up into a rolled edge so crisp it elicits an audible crunch when cut with a sharp knife. Made with strictly authentic ingredients—the venerable Caputo company's finest 00 flour imported from Italy, Marzano tomatoes, mozzarella di buffala and sea salt—Sorella's Margarita is one of the state's purest renditions of a beloved classic.

A tall order for a new restaurant, but this one is owned and operated by Billy Carbone and Dan Keller, both consummate pros whose popular restaurant Dish is across the street, so Sorella (sister in Italian) always has the expertise of big brother close at hand.

Does Hartford need another Italian pizza-plus restaurant? The answer is yes if the plus is as good as the pizza. At Sorella, the menu is impressively extensive, affordable and intriguing. There are dozens of choices. Classics. Classics-with-a-trendy-twist. Bold, subtle, simple, complex. Everything is neatly labeled or categorized: *Carne, Formaggio, Verdure, Mare, Pasta, Pizza. Primi, Secondi* and *Alti* (i.e., "what-not"). This makes it easy to compose a traditional Italian meal if you so choose. It also makes it easy to order with wild abandon driven only by inclination.

I consult my dining companions and we plot our strategy. Everybody gets a favorite, everybody gets to share. We order in flights of two, three or four small plates at a time. There are only three *secondi* so we order all three.

As haphazard as the scheme may sound, it turns out to be hedonistically exhilarating, largely because almost everything we sample

JULIE BIDWELL

The pizza oven at Sorella is in constant use; the restaurant's opulent version of fettucine carbonara.

At Sorella the menu is impressively extensive, intriquing —and affordable.

is a riff on delicious. For our opening salvo we choose small plates of baby artichokes, semolina-fried oysters and black-truffled chicken liver mousse. The artichokes, instead of being roasted, sautéed or deep-fried, have been gently poached. Tender as love, they're sprinkled with Pecorino and tiny young leaves of fresh mint. Roasted cauliflower, too, is a brilliant interplay of unlikely flavors—golden raisins, anchovy and chili flakes. Who says cauliflower has to be bland?

Breaded with semolina for extra crispness, fried oysters arrive piping hot on a bed of ice-cold citrus-marinated sliced fennel. The flavor combination works well but the temperatures cancel each other out. Within minutes everything is room temperature. I'd prefer my fried oysters on a hot plate with fennel salad on the side.

A beet salad gets everything right. Cubed roasted beets arrive drenched with dark, sweet, dense vincotto syrup, garnished with whole pistachios and salty, nutty ricotta salata. Grilled baby octopus, with a nice smoky char and cumin-scented chermoula sauce, is served at the same time and goes beautifully with the beets.

And who could resist veal sweetbreads on the *alti* menu for $8? Two pieces of sautéed sweetbread, gently crisp on the outside, velvety within (each large enough to cut in half and share), arrive with cipollini onions and vincotto. For eight bucks, that's a lot of luxe.

But Sorella loves largesse. The fettucine carbonara we order turns out to be far more opulent than the simple (but good) bacon-and-egg affair I occasionally whip up for unexpected guests. Sorella's carbonara is an elaborate mélange involving guanciale, Parmigiano-Reggiano, speck and tiny green peas. Somehow these extraneous ingredients blend into a sybaritic whole.

Secondi offerings, larger by definition, are more straightforward. Meat, fish and chicken are dutifully on offer. Grilled swordfish, notably fresh, sails in with an Italian passport of young broccoli rabe. Good but not remarkable. Hanger steak, perfectly prepared medium-rare, is tender and flavorful thanks to a tangy herb marinade. (Not sure what to make of the huge bouquet of watercress it wears as a topknot, we decide to be grateful for large favors.) Chicken al mattone replicates in look and taste an age-old Italian recipe that calls for splitting a small bird, opening it out like a book, placing it in a heavy iron pan, and flattening it with a second heavy iron pan, a brick or in modern times a ceramic *mattone*.

To its credit, Sorella does not make a fetish of authenticity. Antique recipes are often the product of making do in hard times. But tradition has much to recommend it and Sorella is comfortable with the genre—enough so to doodle with it, especially when it comes to small plates.

When it comes to dessert, anything goes. Brioche gelato sandwiches arrive looking like three good-sized sliders, each puff of pastry filled with a different flavor—vanilla bean, dark chocolate and zabaglione. Affogato is a deconstructed ultra-sophisticated ice cream sundae consisting of cherry amarone gelato, toasted almonds, chocolate sauce and a jigger of hot espresso to pour over it all. There's more, lots more—ricotta pie, banana Nutella panini, tiramisu—and, whatever you order, there will be a lot of it.

Presentation is not Sorella's strong point, nor is decor, although with its wall of charming old family portraits, the place is infinitely more attractive than when Zuma was housed there. You could say it lacks *POW!* appeal, but the smart crowd couldn't care less. They're here for an old-fashioned Italian dining experience. *Mangia, mangia.*

Sorella
901 Main St., Hartford
860/244-9084, sorellahartford.com

Monday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday 4 to 10. Wheelchair access. Major credit cards. Price range: appetizers $5 to $9, pasta $12 to $18, pizza $10 to $14, entrées $18 to $24, desserts $7 to $8.

Primary Food & Drink ★★½

Greenwich

When Chicago chef Graham Elliot, restaurateur, entrepreneur and media darling, decided to take on Connecticut, he knew exactly what he wanted to do and where he wanted to do it. He chose Greenwich for the same reason the infamous safe cracker Willie Sutton gave when asked why he robbed banks: because that's where the money is.

Having selected his customer base as precisely as trial lawyers choose a jury, chef Elliot and his partners spent money to make money. It shows. The launch was notably professional, the soft opening exclusive by design, and the premises impressive.

Occupying a prime piece of real estate on Greenwich Avenue, Primary Food & Drink

RATINGS ★★★★ Extraordinary ★★★ Superior ★★ Very Good ★ Good Fair Poor

JULIE BIDWELL

is dark and mysterious, edgy and suggestive. You might walk right by without peering in but I bet you can't. We couldn't, although we were supposed to go in and claim a table while Ed parked the car. Viewed through square panes of glass, the bar looked like a movie set. Suits and heels and hair, elbows bent holding martini glasses in the air above the milling crowd. Prime is where it's at.

When Ed arrived we went in and were surrounded, engulfed, smothered with earsplitting din. We were dismayed. We didn't begrudge the beautiful people their high-decibel revel, but I had a job to do, and Kevin, a wine connoisseur, likes to spend a little quiet time with the wine list and confer with the sommelier. "Is there a back room or something where we can be seated?" I shouted to the attractive young woman at the lectern. She said there was and she led us there.

Unequivocal about what they intend to serve at Primary Food & Drink, Graham Elliot and executive chef Merlin Verrier state it plainly: Contemporary American cuisine. The ambience as well as the food exemplifies the concept. The retro-trendy white subway-tile flooring in the bar and the low-top Keds foot gear worn by the male waitstaff couldn't be more urban-hip, while the framed scenes of farms and barns on the back-room walls are almost Wyeth-like in their evocation of rural Americana. (The paintings are, in fact, the work of Nicholas Berger, a highly regarded American artist who lives in Hudson Highlands and counts among his credits a sold-out two-man show with Andrew Wyeth in Tokyo.)

So much is expected of celebrity chefs that the brevity of Primary's menu is almost a shock. On a single page, five categories with four choices each are listed: cold, hot, sea, land, sweet. No caps. No shouting, please.

Graham Elliot doesn't care if his cooking doesn't sound scintillating and sexy because he knows it is. It's also full of surprises. Spoiler: Primary's deconstructed Caesar salad consists of Twinkie-sized rectangles of brioche dough baked with cheese inside, and loosely wrapped leaves of romaine lettuce and a tiny Spanish anchovy on top. A delectable little package if ever there was one.

Pricewise, Primary Food & Drink is an unabashedly über-upscale establishment. Albeit coddled with crème fraîche, black trumpet mushrooms and sinfully lush truffle coulis, a tiny "filet mignon stroganoff" set us back $42. Salmon cost $35, but it was Scottish salmon, which is farmed so meticulously it often tastes wild. Unfortunately, ours was overcooked. When we mentioned the fact, it was quickly whisked away and replaced with another piece, medium-rare, rosy-hued and silky, garnished with tasty slices of d'Anjou pear.

Still, nothing could compare with lobster schnitzel, playfully luscious and subtly satisfying large pieces of lobster meat, tender and sweet, crisply breaded and briefly fried. At $39, it was served with a royal array of chervil sprouts, shaved asparagus, lobster bisque and cauliflower mousse. For me, it was the highlight of the meal.

Nobody's perfect, however, and there were missteps, at least from our point of view. In this rarified atmosphere six raw oysters went for $18. We ordered 12: Blue Points, Malpeques and Beausoleils. We were looking forward to comparing the different flavors. Alas, the oysters arrived doused with a foamy, lemon-spiked mignonette that obscured whatever flavor differences there might have been. For the most part, we New Englanders don't like our raw oysters gussied up too much.

But Graham Elliot cooks to a different drummer and sticks to his guns. Originality is the essence of his talent and what he comes up with usually works splendidly. One of the few exceptions was his Moroccan lamb. Roasted and shredded and mixed with chickpeas, it was mealy, bland and dry. The curry yogurt and green gremolata served alongside helped, but the meat itself seemed to beg for more spice and sauce.

On the other hand, a barbecued Berkshire pork chop was tender and bold, served with a spicy-sweet root beer barbecue sauce, grits and collard greens and popped up with corn nuts. Nothing like a sprinkle of snack food to liven up a dish and spark a conversation.

"Sweets" were gemlike mosaics of edible treats. Carrot cake came with pineapple, ginger essence, Neufchâtel gelato and walnut brittle—everything a heart could desire in miniature. "Chocolate quartet" consisted of a tiny chocolate doughnut and dabs of incredibly rich chocolate cream, chocolate mousse and chocolate ganache. Mixed berries prepared various ways featured unusual flavors like lavender and cardamom.

Primary Food & Drink is not the place to go if you're feeling famished or frugal. The wine list is not shy about aggressive markups, and double-digit small plates, darling as they are, can add up to sticker shock rather quickly. But restaurants like this have other things to recommend them. Like travel and theater, they expand our cultural horizons, deepen our sensual perceptions, and keep the fun in the game. As Graham Elliott said when he announced he was opening a restaurant in Greenwich, "It will be a nice fun spot . . . The menu will have something everyone can relate to with whimsy. No dress code. Come as you are and just enjoy."

Primary Food & Drink
409 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich
203/861-2400, primaryrestaurant.com

Open Monday through Thursday 5 to 10, Friday and Saturday till 11, Sunday till 9. Wheelchair access. Major credit cards. Price range: appetizers $12 to $16, entrées $29 to $42, desserts $10 to $12.

Table Talk

BY ELISE MACLAY

Now there is *Boca*. A stunning small-plate café (the owner calls it a mezze eatery) has opened in Stamford and now hear this, it stays open until 2 a.m. on Saturday nights, till 1 on Fridays and on Sundays till 12 a.m. It's also hard to believe that it's located where Telluride used to be, the space is so dramatically different now, all light and bright, like Mykonos, the white Greek island seen from the sea. Boca's chef-owner, Biagio Riccio, who also owns Quattro Pazzi in Stamford and Fairfield, and Oceana in Fairfield, outdoes himself with this newest venture, where all the bold flavors of the Mediterranean turn up in imaginative new dishes meticulously prepared: Endive and watermelon radish with grilled haloumi cheese, kumquats, Marcona almonds and citrus wine; baby-back ribs with maple-ginger-and-jalapeño glaze served with sesame kale chips. And exotic desserts with flavors like bergamot served in shot glasses. (203/724-9300, *bocact.com*)

Have a seat, please. While it's not unusual for gourmet markets to put out a few tables so customers can eat their prepared foods on the spot, Michael Moriarty and James Neunzig, co-owners of J.P. Gifford Market & Catering Co. in Kent, recently took the concept a few steps further—around the corner, to be exact, where they've opened a restaurant called **Gifford's**. The new place is no cute little café; it's an upscale white-tablecloth restaurant with seating for 75 (and an additional 40 on an awning-shaded terrace in good weather). The space, which used to house Doc's, has been completely redesigned with bright color-block walls that evoke the later works of Piet Mondrian. As Gifford's chef, Neunzig, a Culinary Institute of America grad who's cooked at the Mayflower Inn and West Street Grill, uses many of the same high-end ingredients (like Duroc pork and FreeBird chicken) he used at the market. We've heard raves about the risotto made with arborio rice, zucchini and summer squash and oozing with Gouda and Romano, and brioche bread pudding with molten caramel sauce. (860/592-0262, *jpgifford.com*)

Not ragin' Cajun but a little bit Creole, Memphis, Outer Banks and Low Country, ***The Red House***, which recently replaced Du Glace in Deep River, plays no favorites when it plays around with the multifaceted cuisines of the American deep South. Southern-fried chicken is sandwiched between jalapeño-cheddar waffles, corn bread comes with chipotle honey butter, jambalaya shares pride of place with a barbecue platter of pulled pork, ribs and brisket. And hey, no joke, whoopie pie! (203/526-2600 *redhousect.com*)

Tea Turns a New Leaf

BY ELIZABETH KEYSER

CONNECTICUT'S SIPPING THE ANCIENT BREW ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.

For a small state, Connecticut is big in tea. It's grown some of the most recognized names in the industry. Bigelow—born in 1945, when Ruth Campbell Bigelow combined orange peel, spices and tea in her kitchen to create Constant Comment—is still headquartered in Fairfield. Harney & Sons was started in Salisbury. (The Harneys still live here, but moved the business across the state line.) In Westport, Tea Importers Inc. has been selling tea to major and specialty packagers around the world since 1958. Today, the tea industry is growing. Total sales have increased 16 percent over the last five years, according to the Tea Association of the USA. Exhibit A: Starbucks purchased the Teavana chain of mall-based tea stores in October.

In Connecticut, more and more people—drawn by flavors and health benefits—are seeking out high-quality loose-leaf, often organic or sustainable teas. To experience the tea evolution for yourself, try one of Connecticut's small tea shops for tastes, talks, tea ceremonies and afternoon tea. But first, a clarification: Tea (black, green, oolong and white) is the term used for beverages brewed from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis*. Herbs and herbal blends are "tisanes." Yet today, the word "tea" encompasses all. Ever heard of rooibis? Read on.

The Green Teahouse, West Hartford, 860/232-6666, *thegreenteahouse.com*

University of New Haven graduate Ting Chaponis was raised in China, drinking premium loose tea—her family owns tea shops there. In 2009, she opened The Green Teahouse to share her passion. Loosely designed on a Chinese teahouse, with hand-crafted wood shelves, ceramics and scrolls, the tasting room offers 100 premium loose-leaf teas.

Chinese tea ceremonies here (for groups of four, reservations required) are interactive educational experiences that reveal "the beauty and harmony of the art of making, pouring and tasting tea," says Laura Neves, store manager. "The Chinese realize that tea utilizes all five senses. The sound of tea being poured into cups, the warmth of the cup, the smell of the tea, the flavor . . . It's not just a beverage to gulp."

Ting Luo demonstrates the "beauty and harmony of the art of making, pouring and tasting tea" at The Green Teahouse.

JULIE BIDWELL

A second Green Teahouse just opened in New Haven, with more seating and a focus on food—including dishes that use tea as an ingredient.

Savvy Tea Gourmet, Madison, 203/318-8666, *savvyteagourmet.com*

Tea is an art to Phil Parda, co-owner of Savvy Tea Gourmet, and he's devoted to teaching people about it. On Saturday afternoons at the Madison shop, he gives tasting classes on "The Famous Teas of China," "Natural Remedies" and "The Opium Wars and Tea Production in Sri Lanka," among other topics. Since the 1970s Parda's made hundreds of trips to China, visiting tea shops, gardens and factories, and carrying home by hand "tea treasures" so special he was unwilling to trust them to luggage.

Tea is "an invaluable cultural custom in Asia," he says. "When people come together, tea comes out. It's not even a question. It just appears and creates a connection. It's an instant conduit for conversation. The components in tea are conducive to this. Tea has cognitive benefits." Customers can book tea tastings or British afternoon tea with finger sandwiches.

Mrs. Bridges' Pantry, Woodstock, 860/963-7040

A traditional cozy British teahouse, Mrs. Bridges' Pantry specializes in afternoon tea. That is the proper term for the genteel 4 p.m. ritual. (Americans take note: "high tea," is different, it's the working class's 6 p.m. evening supper. As in "I'm 'aving me tea.") Mrs. Bridges carries over 300 teas—bags, sachets and loose-leaf varieties. Unlike bags, sachets are filled with "what is essentially loose tea," says co-owner Pamela Spaeth. Yorkshire Gold is an "ethical brew" supplied to the Prince of Wales at his London residence. It's a blend of teas from India, Kenya and Rwanda, strong and brisk, with a note of malt. Harney & Sons teas are served too. Afternoon tea features scones made especially for Mrs. Bridges' Pantry in the British style, small, round and not too sweet. And if it's high tea you want, no worries, mate, you can take home a pork pie.

Arogya, Westport, 203/226-2682, *arogya.net*

Arogya's niche is holistic healing (they also offer acupuncture and massage). The shelves of this 16-year-old shop are filled with teas and herbal blends packaged in clear bottles that reflect their tonic intent. Customers ask for teas to help them sleep or renew energy. The popular turmeric-ginger tisane has anti-inflammatory properties, with the "hui gan" quality valued by the Chinese. "When you

Many customers come to Arogya seeking the much-vaunted health benefits of vintage pu'er teas from China.

drink it, the flavor isn't sweet, but there's an aftereffect of sweetness," says owner Wei Huang Bertram. For the true connoisseur, Arogya specializes in vintage *pu'er* teas, fermented teas from China that have earthy, rich flavors and health benefits. Arogya offers tastings for groups. Their teas are also served at Sugar & Olives in Norwalk.

Bean & Leaf, New London, 860/701-0000

Bean & Leaf takes an environmental approach, carrying loose, organic and fair-trade teas. Loose tea is "a higher grade" than bags, explains Melissa Cokas, an owner of the seven-year-old family business. When tea is bagged, "it's put on screened trays, and the little bits that fall through the screen go into the bags," she says. Bean & Leaf employs reusable filters for those enjoying a cup at the café, and unbleached paper bags for take-out. They sell tea by the ounce for home use.

Many customers are interested in holistic health. In blustery weather, Unity tea, a caffeine-free, herbal blend flavored with ginger, lemongrass, licorice, peppermint and black pepper with "immunity-enhancing" properties, is a popular choice. So is Apricot Escape (brewed from South African red bush), mixed with fruit and flowers.

The Drawing Room, Cos Cob, 203/661-3737

"Tea is truly one of life's simple pleasures," says Kenleigh Larock. "It's that moment to be quiet and thoughtful and enjoy the tea in its own right." The Drawing Room sells loose organic teas, and owners Kenleigh and husband Mike Larock, who learned about tea during their travels in Europe, extoll the virtues of tea as a cooking ingredient. Kenleigh makes short ribs with lapsang souchong, a smoked China black tea. "It has an amazing bouquet," she says, "You'd think you smoked your ribs for hours." Black lavender tea "is beautiful in crème brûlée." She also uses The Drawing Room's ginger-lemongrass tea to make syrup for mojitos. Afternoon tea is offered Monday through Saturday.

Chef Lucci to Go on 'Iron Chef'

Restaurant cooking is a highly competitive profession any day of the week, but this month Joseph Lucci, executive chef at Market Place in Danbury, will be competing on a whole new playing field as a challenger on the Food Network's "Iron Chef America." With well over 1.3 million viewers a week, the show could be a game changer for Lucci, a possible first step to becoming a nationally recognized chef, and a way to put Market Place on the culinary map big-time.

At age 26, Lucci has been executive chef at Market Place since it opened in Danbury's thriving dining district on Mill Plain Road in 2012. The Culinary Institute of America grad is a protégé of Thomas Keller, the chef-owner of such acclaimed restaurants as The French Laundry in Napa Valley and Per Se in New York City. (Keller is the only American-born chef to hold multiple three-star ratings in the Michelin Guide.) Chef Keller thought highly enough of Lucci that he contacted his friends at the Food Network and arranged for him to be a contestant on "Iron Chef America." (The episode airs in November.)

Lucci was a little boy when he was first introduced to great food and time-honored cooking techniques at the home of his grandmother, Emilia, an immigrant from Abruzzi, Italy. Joe loved being with her in the kitchen while she prepared homemade pasta, sausage, meatballs, bracciole, Italian wedding soup, and all manner of cakes, cookies and pastries. Savory or sweet, the results were always amazing, says Lucci. As he got older, his grandma would let him help out.

Young Joe's interest in cooking was nudged up to the next level at age 8 or 9, when he saw his first episode of "The Essence of Emeril" on the Food Network. He remembers that Emeril looked very young—and he was skinny! In the ensuing years Joe "graduated" and became his grandmother's sous chef. "I loved food," he says, "but I hadn't considered it as a career."

That inspiration came when he was in high school and joined a class trip to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. By the time he got home, he knew he wanted to go to the CIA.

After graduation, Lucci got an externship at Per Se. "I didn't cook much," he says, "generally I just followed executive chef Jonathan Benno around and watched." Keller emphasizes that chefs must know *why* they do what they do. For example, when making stock, peel the carrots or they will impart a bitter taste to the stock. And always strain a sauce four times to achieve a smooth, silky consistency. "Chef Keller drives his young chefs to settle for nothing less than perfection," he says.

Chef Lucci carried these lessons with him to Market Place, where he strives for sophisticated, modern American cuisine that will exceed diners' expectations: He cooks his short ribs for four hours; he braises his pork belly in duck fat. He wants to hit all the tastes on every plate—sweet, sour, salty, spicy, and what the Japanese call "umami," which can be translated roughly as "deliciousness."

The team at Market Place has positioned their restaurant as the area's premier farm-to-table establishment, serving inventive, local, seasonally inspired dishes. Produce comes from organic farms in Connecticut and the Hudson Valley. His duck comes from Long Island. Salmon's flown in from Scotland, Kobe beef from Japan.

So, which of the Iron Chefs will Lucci challenge? Lucci's decided to take on Michael Symon: They're both perfectionists in the kitchen though their tastes are a bit different: Symon loves pork fat; Lucci loves foie gras. "I have so much respect for what chef Symon has accomplished," Lucci says. "He's an inspiration to young chefs."

THOMAS J. CRAUGHWELL

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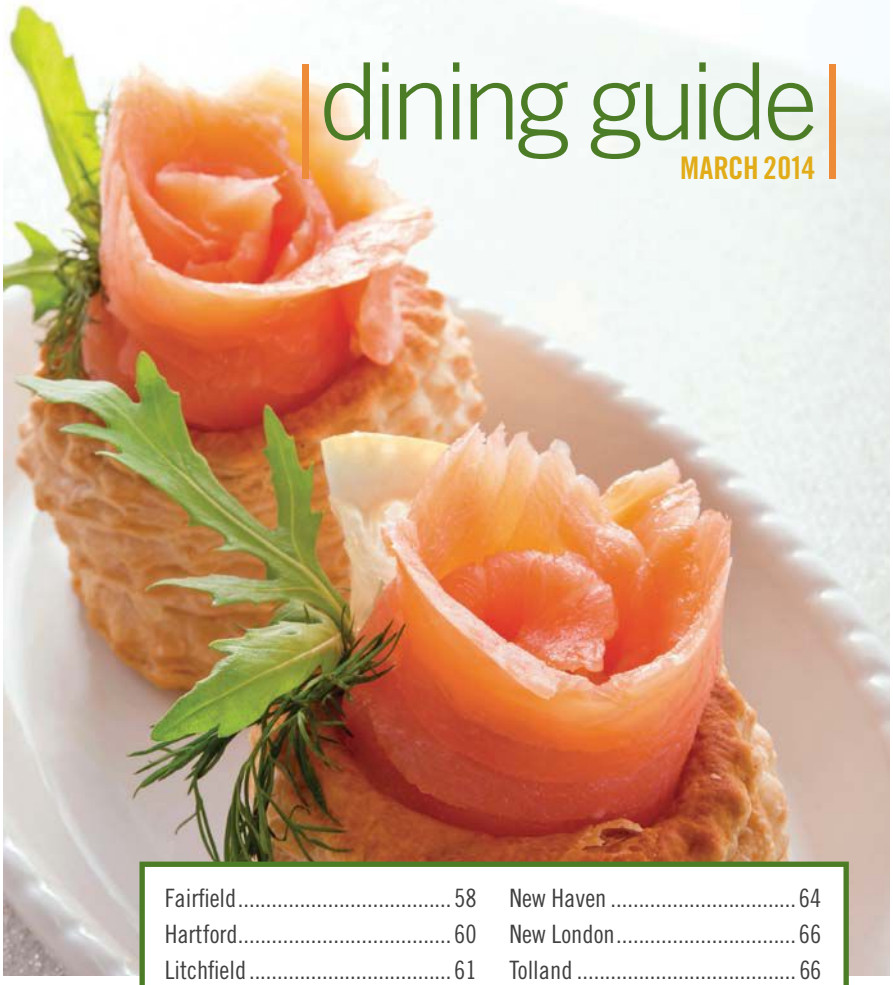

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Fairfield County

Artisan • ***New England*** A farm-to-table restaurant combining 18th-century classic Scandinavian design with New England-inspired seasonal cuisine. • Delamar Southport, 275 Old Post Rd., Southport, (203) 259-2800 (artisansouthport.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Hotel Dining. L D, $$, WA

Barcelona Restaurant & Wine Bar • ***Spanish Mediterranean*** Cutting-edge restaurants serving Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine—including dozens of tapas. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 63-65 North Main St., South Norwalk, (203) 899-0088; 18 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, (203) 983-6400; 4180 Black Rock Tpke., Fairfield, (203) 255-0800; 222 Summer St., Stamford, (203) 348-4800 (barcelonawinebar.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Appetizers. L D LS, $$, WA

Bernard's • ***French*** Perfectly executed seasonal entrées in an elegant country setting. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 20 West La., Ridgefield, (203) 438-8282 (bernardsridgefield.com). Closed Mon. Experts' Pick—Best French, Best Brunch. L (Tues.-Sat.) D SB, $$$, E, WA

Bloodroot • ***Vegetarian*** Offers an organic, seasonal, ever-changing menu that might include Vietnamese summer rolls, the Bloodroot burger and Mexican mole. • 85 Ferris St., Bridgeport, (203) 576-9168 (bloodroot.com). Closed Mon. Experts' Pick—Best Vegetarian/Vegan. L (Tues., Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, $$, WA

Bobby Q's Bodacious Barbeque & Grill • ***Barbecue*** The real deal: BBQ nachos, baby-back ribs, the brisket Reuben, Burnt Ends and lots more. • 42 Main St., Westport, (203) 454-7800 (bobbyqsrestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Barbecue. L D, $$, E, WA

Bon Appétit Café • ***French*** This animated spot offers a menu of authentic French food like soupe à l'oignon and escargots à la bourguignonne. • 5 River Rd., Wilton, (203) 563-9002. Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.) D (Tues.-Sat.) SB, $$, WA [★★★ 2/11]

Brasitas • ***Latin Fusion*** A gathering place for friends and family to enjoy exciting Latin Fusion cuisine, but with traditional accents. • 430 Main Ave., Norwalk, (203) 354-7329; 954 E. Main St., Stamford, (203) 323-3176 (brasitas.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Mexican/Latin. L D $$

Cesco's Trattoria • ***Italian*** Chef Aldo Chiamulera's new restaurant is a sophisticated riff on an Old World country villa. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 25 Old Kings Hwy., Darien, (203)202-9985 (cescostrattoria.com) Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best American, Best Service. L D, $$$, WA [★★★ 3/13]

City Limits Diner • ***American*** An Art Deco superdiner serving haute, ethnic, homespun and kids' food. • 135 Harvard Ave., Stamford, (203) 348-7000 (citylimitsdiner.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families, Best Breakfast. B L D LS, $, WA

Dolce Cubano • ***Cuban*** You're in for a high-energy good time at this waterfront stunner. On the menu: Havana Buffalo wings, grilled oysters with tequila and sage

CONNECTICUT Magazine's restaurant listings are presented as a service to our readers. Information on specialties, prices, etc., was supplied by the restaurateurs. Space limitations in this guide prevent us from describing every restaurant in the state; omission is not intended to reflect upon the quality of an establishment. The listings include restaurants we know and love, and those recommended to us by our readers. Advertisers are guaranteed inclusion in the month they advertise. Restaurants chosen as winners of our 34th "Readers' Choice Restaurant Survey" are so designated. Restaurants reviewed after January 2010 are listed with our critic's ratings (poor; fair; ★ good; ★★ very good; ★★★ superior; ★★★★ extraordinary). Average entrée prices are based on dinner entrées: $—inexpensive (under $15); $$—moderate ($15-$25); $$$—expensive (over $25). This guide is updated regularly, but it is suggested that prices and hours be verified by phone. B (Breakfast); L (Lunch); D (Dinner); LS (Late Supper); SB (Sunday Brunch); E (Live Entertainment); WA (Wheelchair Access)

© DAR1930/ISTOCKPHOTO–THINKSTOCK

butter and classic Spanish paella. • 78 Southfield Ave., Westport, (203) 817-0700 (dolcecubano.com). L D SB LS $$ [★★ 5/13]

eleven14 Kitchen • ***New American*** Master chef François Kwaku-Dongo prepares duck sausage pizza, roasted lobster and other earthly delights at this exciting Greenwich newcomer. • 1114 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich, (203) 698-6999 (eleven14kitchen.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best New, Best Hotel Dining. L D, $$$, WA [★★★ 9/12]

Elm • ***American*** World-class chef Brian Lewis makes culinary magic here—with the freshest local, top-quality ingredients—in an elegant minimalist environment. And there's a great Sunday brunch. 73 Elm St., New Canaan, (203) 920-4994 (elmrestaurant.com). Closed Monday. D SB, $$$, WA [★★★ 11/13]

The Fez • ***Moroccan*** In addition to excellent Moroccan fare—with small plates (kabobs, falafel salad) and large (slow-braised lamb shank, swordfish tagine)—The Fez serves up live music nightly. • 227 Summer St., Stamford, (203) 324-3391 (thefez1.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Appetizers. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$

Fin • ***Japanese*** Specializes in fresh, imaginative sushi and authentic Japanese cuisine. • 1253 Post Rd., Fairfield, (203) 255-6788; 219 Main St., Stamford, (203) 359-6688 (fin-sushi.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 238 Commerce Dr., Fairfield (203) 333-7373, and 59 Federal Rd., Danbury, (203) 790-7373 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse • ***Italian*** A throwback to the days of power dining, Gabriele's is large and luxe, and so are the steaks, which include filet mignon served on the bone, Wagyu and bone-in porterhouse. • 35 Church St., Greenwich, (203) 622-4223 (gabrielesofgreenwich.com). Open daily. D, $$$ [★★★ 11/11]

The Ginger Man • ***American*** A New England-style tavern with 52 beers on tap (and 80 in bottles), burgers, brick-grilled duck and New York strip. • 64 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, (203) 861-6400; 99 Washington St., South Norwalk, (203) 354-0163 (gingermangreenwich.com; gingermannorwalk.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Pub. L D LS SB, $$, WA

Joseph's Steakhouse • ***American*** Known for New York-style steakhouse experience with gems such as prime dry-aged beef and its porterhouse steak for two. • 360 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, (203) 337-9944 (josephssteakhouse.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Steak. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

Kotobuki Japanese Cuisine • ***Japanese*** A full-service sushi bar also offering entrées such as seafood yaki, negimaki and sukiyaki • 457 Summer St., Stamford, (203) 359-4747 (kotobukijapaneserestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Sushi. L (Tues.-Fri.) D (Fri.-Sun.), $$

LeFarm • ***American*** LeFarm serves generous portions of dishes made with local ingredients in a country-farmhouse atmosphere, all under the guidance of acclaimed chef Bill Taibe. • 256 Post Rd. E., Westport, (203) 557-3701 (lefarmwestport.com). Closed Sun.-Tues. L (Wed.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA [★★★½ 2/10]

l'escale • ***French*** A stylish, romantic dining room overlooking Greenwich Harbor that serves superb Provençal cuisine. • 500 Steamboat Rd., Delamar Greenwich Harbor, Greenwich, (203) 661-4600 (lescalerestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Outdoor Dining. B L D LS SB, $$, WA

Liana's Trattoria • ***Italian*** Liana DiMeglio's homemade pastas and sauces pack 'em in at this cozy little gem. • 591 Tunxis Hill Rd., Fairfield, (203) 368-1235. Closed Sun.-Mon. Experts' Pick—Best Italian. D, $$

Little Pub • ***American*** Great food, generous drinks, seasonal menus and a lively pub atmosphere where you'll feel right at home. • 59 Ethan Allen Hwy., Ridgefield, (203) 544-9222 (littlepub.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Pub. L D $$

Match • ***New American*** The place for great appetizers, osso buco, pasta, roasted organic chicken, tasty pizzas, and hot chocolate soufflé cake for dessert. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 98 Washington St., South Norwalk, (203) 852-1088 (matchsono.com). Open daily. D LS (Fri.-Sat.), $$, WA

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2013 "Best of Connecticut," Connecticut Magazine
New Haven Fairfield Danbury Manchester Mohegan Sun Yonkers West Hartford PepesPizza.com

Mezon Tapas Bar & Restaurant • ***Latin Fusion*** The menu features an inventive mix of Spanish, Latin American and Caribbean dishes, featuring locally grown and seasonal ingredients. • 56 Mill Plain Rd., Danbury, (203) 748-0875 (mezonct.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Navaratna • ***Indian*** A pure vegetarian restaurant specializing in the cuisine of both North and South India, characterized by the use of rich spices and aromatic herbs. • 133 Atlantic St., Stamford, (203) 348-1070 (navaratnact.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Indian, Best Vegetarian/Vegan. L D $$

Ondine • ***French*** The menu might include duck foie gras with rhubarb-and-fig compote, whole Dover sole or monkfish with wild mushrooms, tomato and lentils. • 69 Pembroke Rd. (Rte. 37), Danbury, (203) 746-4900 (ondinerestaurant.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. Experts' Pick—Best French. D SB, $$$, WA [★★★½ 4/13]

Pane e Bene • ***Italian*** A cozy, unassuming place to enjoy Italian specialties such as calamari fritti and gnocchetti verdi al tartufo—petite green gnocchi in a black truffle cream sauce. • 1620 Post Rd. E., Westport, (203) 292-9584 (paneebene.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.) D, $$ [★★ 3/12]

Pho Vietnam • ***Vietnamese*** A family-owned restaurant serving authentic Vietnamese cuisine. • 56 Pandanaram Rd., Danbury, (203) 743-6049, (phovietnamrestaurant.com). Open daily. L, D, $$ WA

Pink Sumo Sushi & Sake Café • ***New American*** World-class sushi—made with only the highest-quality ingredients and freshest seafood—in a lively, upscale atmosphere. • 4 Church La., Westport, (203) 557-8080 (pinksumoct.com). Open daily. L D, $$

Post 154 • ***New American*** New wine in an old bottle: Exciting Latin-tinged cuisine from chef Alex Rosado in the former Westport post office. • 154 Post Rd., Westport, (203) 454-0154, (post154.com). Open daily. L D, $$$, WA [★★½ 2/14]

Rebeccas • ***New American*** Signature dishes include foie gras dumpling in black truffle broth and crispy black sea bass with artichoke-heart ravioli. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 265 Glenville Rd., Greenwich, (203) 532-9270. Closed Mon. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best American. L (Tues.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

The Red Barn Restaurant • ***Continental*** Certified Angus beef steaks and cold-water lobster tails top the menu at this rustic landmark. • 292 Wilton Rd., Westport, (203) 222-9549 (redbarnrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$$

The Red Hen • ***New American*** Exceptional dishes prepared from local, organic ingredients—salad Nicoise, T-bone steak, catch of the day—feed the body and comfort the soul. • 1595 Post Rd. E., Westport, (203) 293-4113 (westportinn.com). Open daily. B L D SB, $$, WA

The Restaurant at Rowayton Seafood • ***Seafood*** Yellowfin tuna sashimi flatbread, seafood stew and grilled swordfish bruschetta are among the more unusual selections here. • 89 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton, (203) 866-4488 (rowaytonseafood.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Seafood. L D LS SB, $$, WA

Rive Bistro • ***French*** Eric Sierra's sparkling new bistro on the Saugatuck River serves up the classics—steak frites, moules Provençal, croque monsieur, frisée aux lardons and tarte tatin. • 299 Riverside Ave., Westport, (203) 557-8049 (rivebistro.com). Open Daily. L D SB, $$ WA [★★★ 7/13]

Rizzuto's Wood-Fired Kitchen & Bar • ***Italian*** Feature real Neapolitan pizza, house-made pasta, artisan breads and an antipasto bar, all in a lively atmosphere. • 1980 W. Main St., Stamford, (203) 324-5900; 540 Riverside Ave., Westport, (203) 221-1002 (rizzutos.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families. L D SB, $$, WA

Roberto's Restaurant • ***Classic Italian*** A friendly place for zuppa di pesce, veal portobello and orechiette alla Frosinone. • 505 Main St., Monroe, (203) 268-5723 (robertosmonroe.com). Open daily. L (Sun.) D, $$, WA

Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro • ***Northern Italian*** Offers superb cuisine with a contemporary flair, from fresh pastas and sauces to unique specials and classics with a modern twist. • 97 South Main St., Newtown, (203) 426-0805 (salepeperestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA [★★★ 8/10]

Stonehenge • ***American*** Enjoy dining in grand style with a menu featuring old favorites simply prepared: veal Marsala, seared sea scallp and Gorgonzola-crusted New York strip steak. • 35 Stonehenge Rd., Ridgefield, (203) 438-6511 (stonehengeinn-ct.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. D, $$$, WA [★★ 2/12]

Tappo • ***Italian*** Authentic Italian fare is on offer here, with dishes like carpaccio di manza, penne with seafood and tonno alla Siciliana, along with excellent pizza. • 51 Bank St., Stamford, (203) 588-9670 (tapporestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA [★★ 3/11]

Thali Regional Cuisine of India • ***Indian*** Chic, exotic and fun. Unique Thali dinners—using imported spices and served on silver platters—include Konkan crab, lamb chops and Andhra chicken curry. • 296 Ethan Allen Hwy., Ridgefield, (203) 894-1080; 87 Main St., New Canaan, (203) 972-8332 (thali.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Thomas Henkelmann • ***French*** This refined four-star beauty in the Homestead Inn features top-quality ingredients and inspired combinations, such as seared yellowfin tuna with mango-pineapple chutney and loin of rabbit with foie gras. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 420 Field Point Rd., Greenwich, (203) 869-7500 (thomas-henkelmann.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best French, Most Romantic, Best Service. L (Tues.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA [★★★★ 12/13]

The Whelk • ***Seafood*** Chef Bill Taibe's latest venture is crowded, noisy, artfully casual and totally uncategorizable—the most sophisticated clam shack on the New England coast. • 575 Riverside Dr., Westport, (203) 557-0902 (thewhelkwestport.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. Experts' Pick—Best New, Best Seafood. D $$ [★★★½ 6/12]

Hartford County

Abigail's Grille and Wine Bar • ***American*** A completely remodeled 1780 tavern blending classic charm with upscale casual dining. Try Gorgonzola-topped pork chops or cedar-plank Atlantic salmon. • 4 Hartford Rd., Simsbury, (860) 264-1580 (abigailsgrill.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Bricco Trattoria • ***Italian*** Chef Billy Grant serves simple, fresh, delicious food, including artisan pizzas, handmade pasta, filet mignon and diver sea scallops. • 124 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, (860) 659-0220 (billygrant.com). • Open daily. L D, $$, WA [★★★ 4/11]

Carbone's • ***Italian*** Authentic, gourmet Italian cuisine, served with Old World hospitality. Dine on lobster risotto, grilled pork prime rib, house-made meatballs and Caesar salad made at your table. • 596 Franklin Ave., Hartford, (860) 296-9646 (carbonesct.com). Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Italian. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$, WA

da Capo Brick-Oven Pizza • ***Italian*** Authentic New York-style pizza and generous single-portion or family-style entrées. Seasonal-inspired salads and delicious homemade desserts complete the menu. • 5 East Main St., Old Avon Village, Avon, (860) 677-5599 (dacaporestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Dish 'n Dat • ***American*** This modern-day diner uses only the freshest ingredients to make everyday comfort-food classics like juicy burgers, fresh salads and frosty milkshakes. • 110 Albany Tpke., Canton, (860) 693-4927 (dishbarandgrill.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Feng Asian Bistro • ***Asian Fusion*** Be sure to try the cook-your-own Kobe beef and Shanghai braised meats. • 93 Asylum St., Hartford, (860) 549-3364; 110 Albany Tpke., Canton, (860) 693-3364 (fengrestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Asian, Best Sushi. L D, $$$ [★★ 5/10]

Firebox • ***New American*** Firebox boasts a seasonal, Connecticut farm-inspired menu. Seared Stonington scallops and Connecticut farm-raised lamb are among the favorites. • 539 Broad St., Hartford, (860) 246-1222 (fireboxrestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Brunch. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$, E, WA

WORD OF MOUTH

MAISON MATHIS, NEW HAVEN

"In bread we trust" goes the motto at Maison Mathis, New Haven's—and Yale University's—much touted foray into Belgian cuisine-on-the-go. Boy, do they ever. Your average carboholic's brain (along with other internal organs) is likely to explode on contact with this menu. Brioches, baguettes, crispy rolls, focaccia, ciabatta, raisin bread, thick country bread, whole grain breads—they're all housemade at the top o' every morning (roughly 4 a.m.) with imported Belgian flour, and "kneaded into perfection." I've had some pretty tasty bread-based treats here, I'll confess: a breakfast sandwich on a crispy roll with egg, avocado, tomato, Cheddar, bacon and horseradish aioli ($5.25), an open-faced curried-chicken tartine with apples and cranberry on toasted grain bread ($9), a jambon & fromage sandwich with parsley mustard on a brioche. Curiously, however, my favorite items involve no bread at all—a superfresh orzo salad with arugula, feta cheese, grape tomatoes, Greek olives and peppers ($5.75); a mushroom, chevre and sunflower-seed omelette made with eggs from Soeffer Farms in Branford ($8). Made-to-order Belgian waffles "de Bruxelles" are enormously popular—and I have yet to try Maison's array of *croques* (monsieur, madame, caprese and fromage), or some enticing (and not particularly Belgian) daily specials, such as mahimahi with braised maple endive and ginger soy glaze. I can heartily recommend many of the sweet treats, however, particularly the blueberry-and-tarragon-lemon tartlette, either as fine finishes to your meal or stand-alone indulgences. Though the management exhorts diners to "relax," the gleaming floor-to-ceiling-windowed cafeteria surroundings (with imported white marble counters) and self-service ordering system don't really lend themselves. But adding a cup of organic coffee or tea, a Belgian beer, or an imported soda to your meal *will* slow you down a bit. *304 Elm St., New Haven, (203) 752-9779, mmyale.com. Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m.–10 p.m.* | P.6. |

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar • ***American*** A premier destination for prime meats and chops, fresh fish and poultry, with a sophisticated wine list. • Blue Back Square, 44 South Main St., West Hartford, (860) 676-WINE (flemingssteakhouse.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Steak. D, $$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 1148 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, (860) 236-7373, and 221 Buckland Hills Dr., Manchester (860) 644-7333 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Grants Restaurant, Bar & Patisserie • ***Continental*** A West Hartford institution serving inventive dishes like braised lamb shank, pistachio-crusted Idaho trout and chocolate-caramel opera cake. • 977 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, (860) 236-1930 (billygrant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Desserts. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA

La Trattoria • ***Italian/American*** Enjoy seafood linguine fra diavolo and tableside Caesar salad. Banquet facility on premises. • Rte. 44, Canton, (860) 673-5000 (latrattoriact.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri., Sun.) D, $$, E (weekends), WA

Max Downtown • ***American*** A Hartford mainstay featuring global cuisine, chophouse classics, a fine wine list and lighter fare in the tavern. *Wine Spectator* Best of Award of Excellence. • 185 Asylum St., Hartford, (860) 522-2530 (maxrestaurantgroup.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best American. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$$, WA

Max Fish • ***Seafood*** A lively, upscale fish house serving a daily selection of fresh seafood and great steaks. The Shark Bar is more casual, offering lighter fare and Max classics in an up-tempo environment. • 110 Glastonbury Blvd., Glastonbury, (860) 652-3474 (maxfishct.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Seafood. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, $$

Metro Bis • ***American*** The restaurant's got a lovely new home at Simsbury 1820 House, but the focus hasn't changed: "classically grounded innovation, seasonally oriented and ever open to a playful riff or two" (Elise Maclay). 731 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, (860) 651-1908 (metrobis.com). Closed Sun. L D, $$, WA [★★★ 2/14]

The Mill on the River • ***American*** Pan-seared Chilean sea bass and pork chop Milanese are tops at this former gristmill. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 989 Ellington Rd., South Windsor, (860) 289-7929 (themillontheriver.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Millwright's Restaurant • ***American*** Tyler Anderson dazzled us for years at The Copper Beech Inn. Now, he's wearing the top toque—and wowing all comers—at this sparkling restaurant in a 1680 gristmill. • 77 West St., Simsbury, (860) 651-5500 (millwrightsrestaurant.com). • Closed Mon.-Tues. Experts' Pick—Best New, Best Service. D, $$$, WA [★★★★ 12/12]

Pit Stop BBQ • ***Barbecue*** Carolina pulled pork and steamed cheeseburgers, plus a feast of homemade sides, including cole slaw, soups and chili. • 985 W. Main St., New Britain, (860) 229-4111. Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Barbecue. L, $

ON20 • ***Contemporary French/American*** Savor panaromic city views and sophisticated atmosphere along with sumptuous seasonal cuisine. Special events by request. • 400 Columbus Blvd., 20th Floor, Hartford, (860) 722-5161 (ontwenty.com). Closed Sat.-Sun. Experts' Pick—Most Romantic. L D (Thurs.-Fri.), $$ (L) $$$ (D), E

Republic • ***Gastropub*** Handcrafted beers, boutique wines, small-batch bourbons and artistic culinary creations are all offered in a high-end pub atmosphere. • 39 Jerome Ave., Bloomfield, (860) 216-5852 (republicct.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$

Rizzuto's Wood-Fired Kitchen & Bar • ***Italian*** Feature Neapolitan-style pizza, house-made pasta, artisan breads and an antipasto bar, all in a lively atmosphere. • 111 Memorial Rd., Blue Back Square, West Hartford, (860) 232-5000 (rizzutos.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families. L D SB, $$, WA

Salute • ***Italian/American*** It's like a classy party every night at this restaurant, where diners enjoy everything from traditional pasta dishes (including gluten-free choices) to giobatto, a robust chicken-sausage stew in a spicy broth served over fettucine. • 100 Trumbull St., Hartford, (860) 899-1350 (salutect.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA [★★ 3/12]

Vinted Wine Bar & Kitchen • ***Tapas*** This exciting restaurant in Blue Back Square serves 68 wines by the glass along with an ambitious small-plates menu. 63 Memorial Rd., West Hartford, (860) 206-4648 (vintedwinebar.com). Open daily. D, $$, WA [★★ 10/13]

Wood-n-Tap • ***American*** Hip, fun eateries known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. • 99 Sisson Ave., Hartford, (860) 232-TAPS; 1274 Farmington Ave., Farmington, (860) 773-OPEN; 420 Queen St., Southington, (860) 329-0032; 12 Town Line Rd., Rocky Hill, (860) 571-9444 (woodntap.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families. L D LS, $, WA

Litchfield County

Adrienne • ***New American*** Featuring country elegance teamed with award-winning cuisine, the seasonal menus offer exciting choices such as gluten-free, vegetarian, game and seafood. • 218 Kent Rd., New Milford, (860) 354-6001 (adriennerestaurant.com). Closed Mon. D (Tues.-Sat.) SB, $$, E, WA

Arethusa al Tavolo • ***New American*** This high-flying country restaurant serves sparkling dishes like butter-poached halibut with crab paella, rack of lamb and a glorious reinvention of Pekin Duck. 828 Bantam Rd., Bantam, (860) 567-0043 (arethusaaltavolo.com). Open Thurs.-Sun. D, $$$, WA [★★★½ 10/13]

Backstage • ***American*** Located next to the Warner Theatre in downtown Torrington, Backstage serves casual American fare prepared from scratch—salads and soups, creative small plates, hand-formed Angus patties on house-baked rolls—and 40 beers on tap. • 84 Main St., Torrington, (860) 489-8900 (backstageeatdrinklive.com). Open daily. L D LS SB, $$, E, WA [★★ 10/11]

Carmen Anthony Fishhouse • ***Seafood & Steak*** Carmen Anthony offers an impressive variety of fresh-only seafood, big Maine lobsters (up to five pounds) and thick Black Angus steaks. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 757 Main St., Woodbury, (203) 266-0011. Open daily. L D LS, $$$, E, WA

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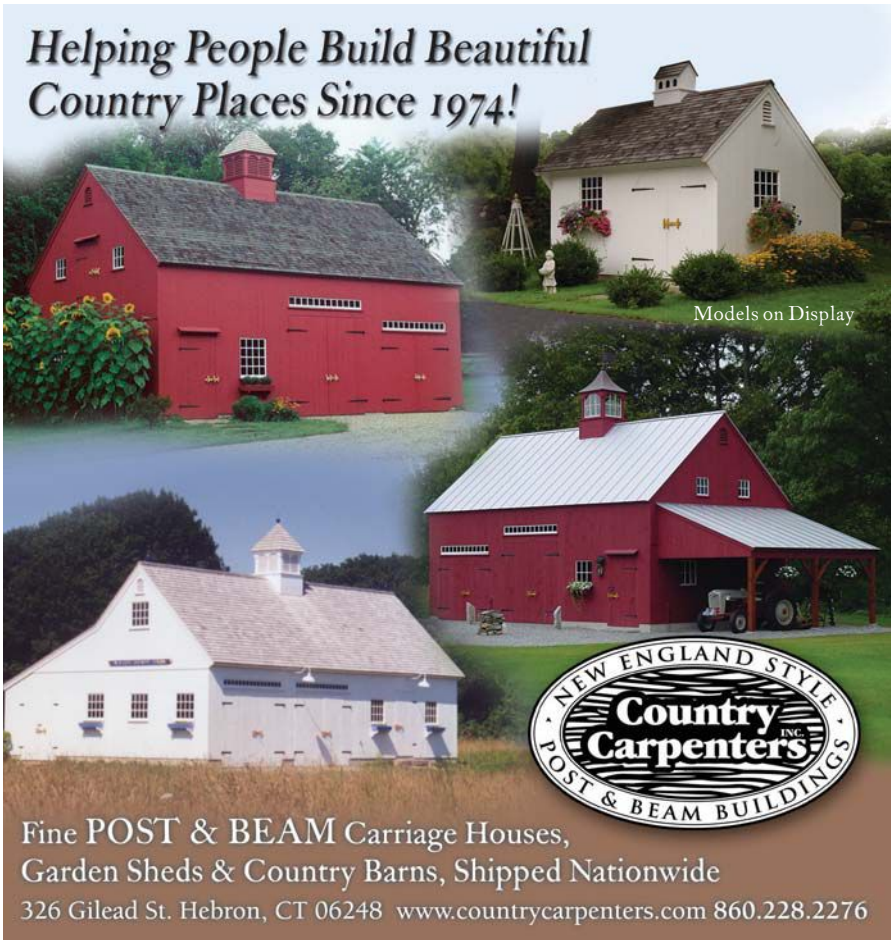
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Carole Peck's Good News Cafe • ***New American*** Chef Carole Peck offers original dishes like warm crab taco and chicken tagine. • 694 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 266-GOOD (good-news-cafe.com). Closed Tues. Experts' Pick—Best American, Best Appetizers. L D, $$

Community Table • ***American*** Chef Joel Viehland offers a seasonal menu using only ingredients grown, raised or foraged within a 200-mile radius. • 223 Litchfield Tpke., Washington, (860) 868-9354 (communitytablect.com). Closed Tues.-Wed. D SB, $$, WA [★★ 8/11]

The Cookhouse • ***Barbecue*** "Slo-smoked" baby-back ribs and pulled pork are the name of the game here. • 31 Danbury Rd. (Rte. 7), New Milford, (860) 355-4111 (thecookhouse.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Barbecue. L D, $$, WA

da Capo Brick-Oven Pizza • ***Italian*** Enjoy authentic New York-style pizza and generous single-portion or family-style entrées. Seasonal-inspired salads and delicious homemade desserts complete the menu. • 625 Torrington Rd., Litchfield, (860) 482-6246 (dacaporestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

G.W. Tavern • ***American*** A Colonial-style tavern with a cozy bar and live music on weekends. Serves seasonal all-natural foods, including steaks and fresh seafood. • 20 Bee Brook Rd. (Rte. 47), Washington Depot, (860) 868-6633 (gwtavern.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Cocktails. L D LS SB, $$, WA

The Hopkins Inn • ***Austrian*** A country inn with an Old World atmosphere known for wienerschnitzel, backhendl and fresh-caught trout. • 22 Hopkins Rd., Warren, (860) 868-7295. Closed Mon. Experts' Pick—Best Outdoor Dining. B L (Tues.-Sat.) D, $$$

Infinity Bistro • ***American*** Enjoy small plates, great entrées and mouth-watering desserts in a music-themed dining room. • 20 Greenwoods Rd., Norfolk, (860) 542-5531 (infinityhall.com). Closed Tues. L D SB, $$, E, WA [★★ 9/10]

John's Café • ***New American*** A popular spot for New American cuisine with a Mediterranean accent: grilled pizzas, ricotta gnocchi and salmon with morels. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 693 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 263-0188 (johnscafe.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA

Longwood Country Inn • ***New England*** An award-winning 1789 inn, located in the scenic Litchfield Hills. Fine dining options include lobster bisque, seafood crêpes and roast quail. • 1204 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 266-0800 (longwoodcountryinn.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.) D (Tues.-Sat.) SB, $$, WA

Patty's Restaurant • ***American*** A delightful, classic breakfast experience with generous portions—the menu is influenced by season and might include treats such as raisin French toast or apple, walnut and cranberry pancakes. • 499 Bantam Rd., Litchfield, (860) 567-3335. Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Breakfast. B L $

The Restaurant at Winvian • ***French*** Chef Chris Eddy constantly changes the menu, using simple, crisp and seasonal ingredients accented with unusual and fresh findings. • 155 Alain White Rd., Morris, (860) 567-9600 (winvian.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best Hotel Dining. L D, $$$, WA

The Village Restaurant • ***American*** A historic pub and restaurant in the heart of Litchfield bustling with locals and tourists alike. Veal Bartalucci, Parmesan-and-horseradish-encrusted salmon and cheeseburgers top the menu. • 25 West St., Litchfield, (860) 567-8307 (village-litchfield.com). Open daily. L D, $$

West Street Grill • ***New American*** An innovative restaurant with a star-studded clientele and menu to match. Serves wild fish, handmade pasta and organic salads. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 43 West St., Litchfield, (860) 567-3885 (weststreetgrill.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best American, Best Service. L D SB, $$$, R (on weekends), WA

The White Horse Country Pub • ***American*** Serves American pub favorites like burgers, ribs and seafood bake, along with some English ones—shepherd's pie, fish-and-chips and bangers and mash. • 258 New Milford Tpke., Washington, (860) 868-1496 (whitehorsecountrypub.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Pub, Prime Rib. L D SB, $$, WA [★★ 3/10]

The Woodland • ***American*** The wide-ranging menu at this country-chic outpost includes Asian spinach salad, steak tartare and a big, thick veal chop with mashed potatoes. There's a sushi menu too. • 192 Sharon Rd., Lakeville, (860) 435-0578 (thewoodlandrestaurant.com). L D$$$ [★★½ 5/13]

Middlesex County

Alforno • ***Northern Italian*** Known for a great selection of house-made ravioli, including veal osso buco with fresh ricotta ravioli, butternut squash ravioli and wild boar ravioli, as well as tagliatelle Bolognese and arugula chicken. • 1654 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook, (860) 399-4166 (alforno.net). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Amici Italian Grill • ***Italian*** Features a relaxed atmosphere, sophisticated decor and a menu of seafood fra diavolo, filet mignon and chicken Milanese. • 280 Main St., Riverview Ctr., Middletown, (860) 346-0075 (amiciitaliangrill.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$

Aspen • ***New American*** The menu at this sophisticated spot includes small plates (house-made tagliatelle, grilled flatbreads) and large—duck breast, rabbit, lobster pappardelle, Stonington sea scallops and more. • 2 Main St., Old Saybrook, (860) 395-5888 (aspenct.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Sun.) D, $$, WA

Baci Grill • ***Modern Italian*** Try house specialties like grilled mango-and-chipotle pork loin, chicken sausage and broccoli rabe pasta, Guinness skirt steak and scallop risotto at this casual, trendy restaurant. • 134 Berlin Rd., Cromwell, (860) 613-2224 (bacigrill.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, E, WA

Café Routier Bistro & Lounge • ***New American Bistro*** Two menus here—regional and seasonal—change every six weeks; dishes might include seared Bomster scallops, hanger steak and Mexican Seafood Paella. • 1353 Post Rd., Westbrook, (860) 399-8700 (caferoutier.com). Open daily. D LS, $$, WA

Chamard Bistro • ***French*** This sophisticated rustic bistro has a dining porch overlooking Chamard Vineyards. On the menu: Steak frites, cassoulet, lamb chops and wild steelhead trout. 115 Cow Hill Rd., Clinton, (860) 664-0299, (chamard.com). Closed Mondays. L, D $$, WA [★★ 6/13]

Fresh Salt • ***American*** Drink in the glorious water view while savoring cioppino, merlot-braised short rib osso buco and Block Island swordfish. 2 Bridge St., Old Saybrook, (860) 395-2000 (saybrook.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Brunch, Best Outdoor Dining. B L (Mon.-Sat.) D SB, $$$, E, WA

Gabrielle's • ***New American Bistro*** Gabrielle's is an upscale bistro serving grilled tenderloin of beef, pan-seared scallops and pan-roasted fillet of salmon. • 78 Main St., Centerbook, (860) 767-2440 (gabrielles.net). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Gelston House • ***American Bistro*** This historic restaurant offers unparalleled views of the Goodspeed Opera House and the Connecticut River. Entrées include pan-seared duck breast, filet mignon and lamb ragout. • 8 Main St., East Haddam, (860) 873-1411 (gelstonhouse.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sun.) D LS SB, $$, E, WA

The Griswold Inn • ***American*** Exuding river-town charm, the beloved 1776 "Gris" features classic New England cuisine in the dining room, small plates and 50 wines by the glass in the wine bar, and a lively taproom. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 36 Main St., Essex, (860) 767-1776 (griswoldinn.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Prime Rib. L D SB, $$$, E, WA

Hilltop BBQ • ***Barbecue*** Beer-battered onion rings, loaded chili, Memphis-style baby-back ribs and cornmeal-and-jalapeño-crusted catfish are just a few of the down-home choices here. • 12 Rae Palmer Rd., Moodus, (860) 873-1234 (hilltopbbqsteakhouse.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Barbecue. L D, $$, WA

Liv's Oyster Bar • ***Seafood*** Liv's is a stylish, small neighborhood restaurant housed in an old movie theater. Stonington sea scallops, wild salmon, organic chicken and heirloom vegetables top the menu. • 166 Main St., Old Saybrook, (860) 395-5577 (livsoysterbar.com). Closed Tues. D, $$, WA

Luce • ***Tuscan/Modern American*** Serving Tuscan cuisine with a modern American flair, Luce is the place for steaks, seafood and game. • 98 Washington St., Middletown, (860) 344-0222 (lucect.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

The Restaurant at Water's Edge • ***Continental*** Drink in the view of Long Island Sound as you savor fare like filet mignon and applewood-smoked Atlantic salmon. • 1525 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook, (860) 399-5901 (watersedge-resort.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Brunch. B L D SB, $$$, WA

Restaurant L&E/French 75 Bar • ***French*** Upstairs you'll find formal, elegant dining and a seasonal menu while downstairs offers a more traditional bistro experience. • 59 Main St., Chester, (860) 526-5301 (restaurantlande.com). Open daily. D LS, $$$, WA [★★★ 9/10]

River Tavern • ***American*** Farm-to-table pioneer Jonathan Rapp wears top toque at this town fixture decorated with artworks by Sol Lewitt. On the menu: made-to-order guacamole, grilled Stonington swordfish, New York strip. 23 Main St., Chester, (860) 526-9417 (rivertavernrestaruant.com). Open daily. L D $$ [★★½ 11/13]

Six Main • ***Vegetarian*** Chef Rachel Carr creates inspired vegetarian cuisine using the freshest plant-based ingredients, featuring produce from the restaurant's own farm in Old Lyme. • 6 Main St., Chester, (860) 322-4212 (sixmain.com). Open daily. D SB, $$

Westbrook Lobster • ***Seafood*** Offers the freshest fish possible in dishes ranging from baked stuffed lobster to teriyaki-grilled salmon to seafood paella. • 346 Boston Post Rd., Clinton, (860) 664-9464 (westbrooklobster.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

New Haven County

116 Crown • ***American Tapas/Small Plates*** Dine on sliders, pizzettes and charcuterie and cheese in a lounge-like atmosphere—along with exciting house cocktails created by mixologist John Ginnetti. • 116 Crown St., New Haven, (203) 777-3116 (116crown.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Cocktails. D LS, $$, E, WA

121 Restaurant @ OXC • ***American*** Watch the planes take off and land at 121, located at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport. The menu runs from great pizzas and burgers to an eclectic mix of American favorites. • 7 Juliano Dr., Oxford, (203) 262-0121 (121atoxc.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$, E, WA

Bar Bouchée • ***French*** Jean Pierre Vuillermet's classic bistro has a black-and-white tile floor, pressed-tin-style walls and ceiling and a zinc bar. On the menu: duck leg confit, charcuterie and beef bourguignon. • 8 Scotland Rd., Madison, (203) 318-8004. Open daily. D, $$ [★★★★ 2/11]

Barcelona Restaurant & Wine Bar • ***Spanish Mediterranean*** A hip restaurant serving Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine—including tapas, hot and cold. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 155 Temple St., New Haven, (203) 848-3000 (barcelonawinebar.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Appetizers. L D LS, $$, WA

Bin 100 • ***Mediterranean*** Feast on delicious Mediterranean cuisine elegantly served in a spacious dining room. • 100 Lansdale Ave., Milford, (203) 882-1400 (bin100restaurant.com). Open daily. D SB, $$, E, WA [★★½ 9/11]

Carmen Anthony Steakhouse • ***Steak & Seafood*** The place to enjoy thick Black Angus steaks and Maine lobsters in a clubby atmosphere. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 496 Chase Ave., Waterbury, (203) 757-3040; 660 State St., New Haven, (203) 773-1444 (carmenanthony.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Steak, Best Prime Rib. L D LS, $$$, WA

The Cask Republic • ***Gastropub*** Beer is the star here, with 125 bottled and 53 draft beers on offer. Pair it with dishes like sweet-potato clam chowder, oyster sliders and pan-seared sea scallops. • 179 Crown St., New Haven, (475) 238-8335 (thecaskrepublic.com). Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Pub. L D, $$, WA [★★½ 10/11]

Claire's Corner Copia • ***Vegetarian*** A café-style spot offering globe-trotting dishes like organic-mushroom crêpes, Bengal curry, Irish breakfast and Lithuanian coffee cake. • 1000 Chapel St., New Haven, (203) 562-3888 (clairescornercopia.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Vegetarian/Vegan. B L D SB, $, WA

Consiglio's Restaurant • ***Classic Italian*** Family-owned and -run for over 70 years, Consiglio's is known for classic home-style favorites like homemade cavatelli and braciole, eggplant rollatini and lasagna. • 165 Wooster St., New Haven, (203) 865-4489 (consiglios.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Fri., Sun.) D, $$

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 157 Wooster St., New Haven, 203/865-5762 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Geronimo Tequila Bar & Southwest Grill • ***Southwestern Fusion*** A mix of traditional Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American fare, with bold flavors and authentic ingredients. • 271 Crown St., New Haven, (203) 777-7700 (geronimobarandgrill.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Cocktails. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$ [★★ 7/13]

Heirloom • ***Modern Continental*** Chef Carey Savona serves herbed gnocchi with rapini and tomatoes, and crab cakes with fennel and vermouth butter. • The Study at Yale, 1157 Chapel St., New Haven, (203) 503-3919 (studyhotels.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Brunch, Best Hotel Dining. B L (Mon.-Sat.) D SB, $$, WA

Goodfellas Restaurant • ***Italian*** The extensive menu at this local favorite is a veritable Best Hits of Italy, featuring pastas and gnocchi, pork chop Milanese, steak pizzaiola, veal saltimboca and the chef's signature filet cognac. • 702 State St., New Haven, (203) 785-8722 (goodfellas-restaurant.com). Open daily. L, D, $$, WA

Ibiza Restaurant • ***Contemporary Spanish*** This nationally acclaimed restaurant serves innovative fare such as grilled baby squid, roasted duck and home-salted codfish. • 39 High St., New Haven, (203) 865-1933 (ibizanewhaven.com). Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Mexican/Latin, Best Desserts, Best Service. L (Fri. only) D, $$$

Ibiza Tapas • ***Tapas*** Requeson cheese croquettes, sautéed shrimp in garlic sauce and Spanish veal-and-pork meatballs are among the offerings. • 1832 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, (203) 909-6512 (ibizatapaswinebar.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA [★★★½ 5/10]

J. Christian's • ***New American*** A smart, lively restaurant and lounge in a renovated 1920s bank that takes no shortcuts in preparing New American cuisine with a Southern accent. • 9 North Main St., Wallingford, (203) 265-6393 (jchristians.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$ [★★½ 2/11]

La Tavola Ristorante • ***Classic Italian*** Enjoy a twist on classic Italian cuisine with prosciutto-wrapped figs, pumpkin ravioli and pepper-encrusted Ahi tuna. • 702 Highland Ave., Waterbury, (203) 755-2211 (latavolaristorante.com). Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Italian. L D, $$, WA

Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale • ***Seafood*** This Connecticut institution serves all manner of fresh seafood, from hot lobster rolls to baked stuffed shrimp to fried whole-belly clams. • 501 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, (203) 691-6619 (ljfishtale.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

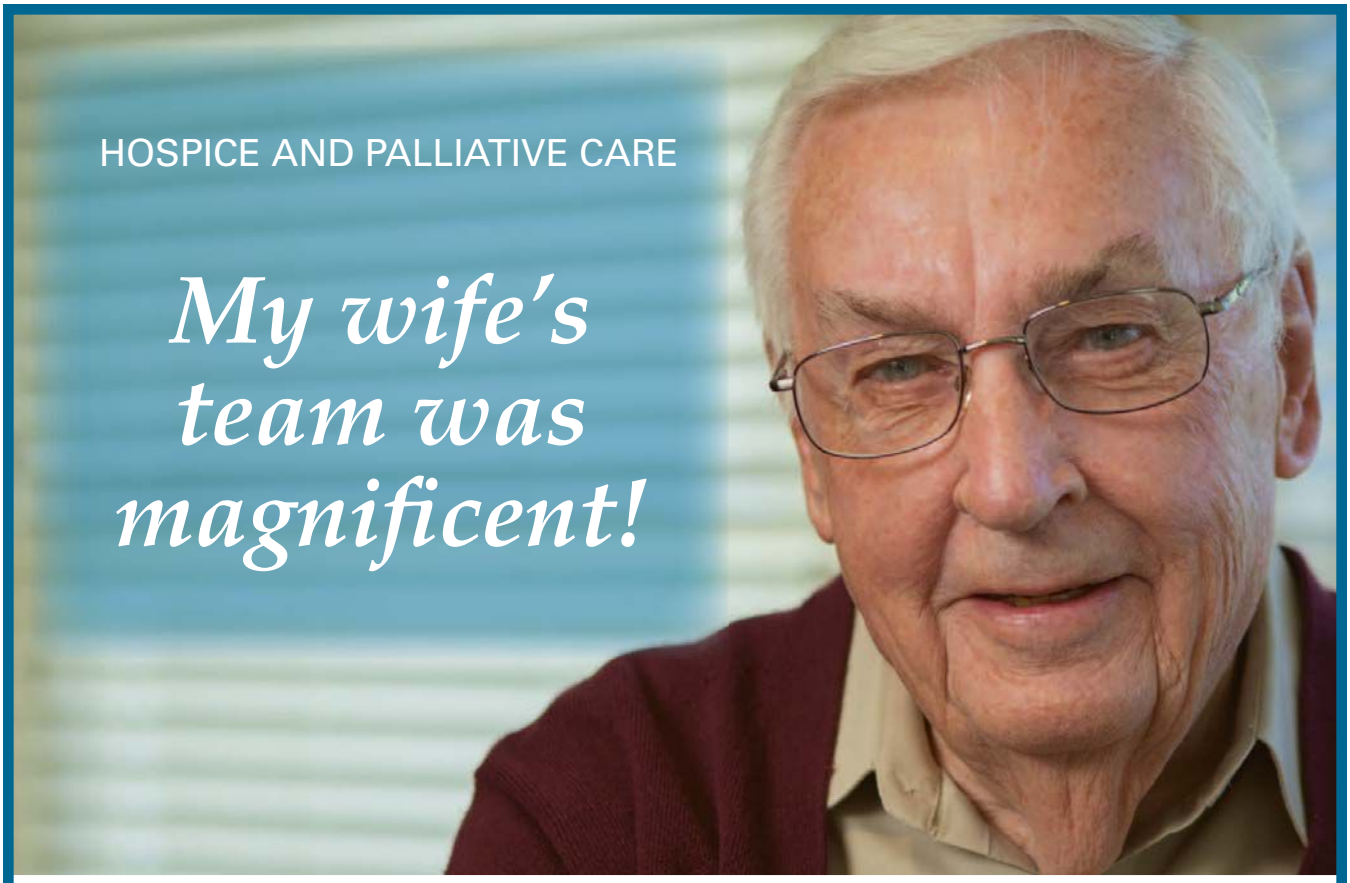
L'Orcio • ***Contemporary Italian*** This upscale restaurant features a menu of house-made pastas, grilled whole fish and steaks. • 806 State St., New Haven, (203) 777-6670 (lorcio.com). Closed Mon. L (Fri.) D, $$

Miso • ***Japanese*** A stylish spot with a beautiful ambience that serves sparkling-fresh sushi, tuna carpaccio, rib-eye steak and teriyaki dishes. • 15 Orange St., New Haven, (203) 848-6472 (misorestaurant.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Asian, Best Sushi. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, E, WA

Miya's • ***Sushi*** A sushi restaurant like no other, thanks to chef Bun Lai's unique creations (including many vegetarian items). • 68 Howe St., New Haven, (203) 777-9760 (miyassushi.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. Experts' Choice—Best Sushi. L D, $$$, WA

Park Central Tavern • ***American*** The dynamic weekly menu showcases signature entrées and classic favorites made with fresh New England ingredients. • 1640 Whitney Ave., Hamden, (203) 287-8887 (parkcentraltavern.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Ristorante Luce • ***Classic Italian*** Enjoy the double-cut veal chops, pane cotto, risotto pescatore and daily fish specials. Extensive wine list. • 2987 Whitney Ave., Hamden, (203) 407-8000 (ristoranteluce.net). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$



Hospice is a philosophy of care with a holistic approach that not only addresses physical needs but psychosocial, emotional and spiritual as well. Palliative Care provides comfort to patients with a progressive, serious or life-limiting illness. It is designed to alleviate pain or discomfort and improve quality of life.

Masonicare Home Health & Hospice brings hospice and palliative care to patients who wish to receive this special care at home. We also are here to support your family or caregiver.

And our expertise extends even further. Should a patient require an acute inpatient stay, our hospice wing at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford offers private rooms that can accommodate family members in an atmosphere of peace and comfort.

For additional information about our hospice and palliative care expertise, please call **1-888-679-9997**

Masonicare

www.masonicare.org

For more information, see page 98

Roìa • ***French/Italian*** This new spot in the Taft Hotel building evokes a golden era when romance reigned. On the menu: artichoke soup, chicken al mattone and panna cotta. 261 College St., New Haven, (203) 200-7045 (roiarestaurant.com). D (Wed.-Sun.) $$ WA [★½]

Sage American Grill & Oyster Bar • ***American*** Take in spectacular waterfront views at historic City Point while enjoying fresh seafood, oysters and certified Angus prime rib and steaks. Live jazz four nights a week. • 100 South Water St., New Haven, (203) 787-3466 (sageamerican.com). Open daily. D SB, $$, E, WA

Señor Pancho's • ***Mexican*** A festive spot serving up terrific fresh salsa and margaritas to go with mole poblano, steak ranchero and fajitas. • 280 Cheshire Rd., Prospect, (203) 758-7788; 385 Main St. S., Southbury, (203) 262-6988 (senorpanchos.com). Open daily. L D SB, $, E, WA

Thali Regional Cuisine of India • ***Indian*** Chic, exotic and fun. Thali dinners include Konkan crab, lamb chops and Andhra chicken curry. • 4 Orange St., New Haven, (203) 777-1177 (thali.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Indian. L D SB, $$, WA

The Union League Café • ***French*** A Paris-style brasserie,serving seasonal contemporary French cuisine. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 1032 Chapel St., New Haven, (203) 562-4299 (union-leaguecafe.com). Closed Sun. Experts' Pick—Best Overall, Best French, Most Romantic, Best Desserts, Best Service. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

Waterhouse Oyster Bar & Bistro • ***Seafood*** This Arturo Franco-Camacho eatery offers sparkling seafood in a kick-off-your-shoes-and-party atmosphere. • 1209 Main St., Branford (860) 208-0423 (waterhouseoysterbar.com). • Closed Sun.-Mon. Experts' Pick—Best New, Best Seafood. D, $$, WA [★★★★ 12/12]

The Wharf • ***New American*** This great spot at the Madison Beach Hotel serves up steak tartare, cioppino and grilled Berkshire pork chop with roasted fennel—with a side of water views. • 94 West Wharf Rd., Madison, (203) 350-0014 (madisonbeachhotel.com). Open daily. B, L (Mon.-Sat.), D. $$$, WA [★★ 9/12]

Wood-n-Tap • ***American*** Hip, fun eateries known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. • 311 Boston Post Rd., Orange, (203) 799-9663; 970 N. Colony Rd., Wallingford, (203) 265-9663 (woodntap.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families. L D LS, $, WA

New London County

Al Dente • ***Italian*** Savor the mouthwatering flavors of frutti di mare, farfalle con pollo and medaglioni de manzo, followed up with cannoli or tiramisu. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (800) Foxwoods (foxwoods.com). Open daily. D, $$$, E, WA

Ballo Italian Restaurant & Social Club • ***Italian*** A sumptuous new restaurant inspired by the magnificent 12th-century Abbey of San Galgano in Siena. On the menu: pizza and pasta, striped bass and veal porterhouse. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-1100 (balloitalian.com). L D, $$, WA [★★ 11/12]

Bar Americain • ***American*** This brasserie serves up Bobby Flay specialties like lobster-avocado cocktails, buttermilk-fried chicken with biscuits—and big-time glamour. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8000 (baramericain.com). Open daily. D, $$ [★★★½]

David Burke Prime • ***American*** An updated steakhouse menu with dry-aged beef, as well as terrific pork, chicken and seafood specialties. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (860) 312-8753 (davidburkeprime.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Prime Rib, Best Desserts. L D SB, $$$ [★★★ 11/11]

Flood Tide Restaurant • ***Continental*** Enjoy sweeping water views while lingering over lobster crêpes and glazed wild salmon fillet. • The Inn at Mystic, rtes. 1 & 27, Mystic, (860) 536-8140 (innatmystic.com). Open daily. B D SB, $$$, E, WA

Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant • ***Seafood*** Flanders excels at lobster bisque, fish-and-chips and broiled seafood. Known for its bountiful Sun. buffet, fresh seafood market and New England clambakes. • 22 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme, (860) 739-8866 (flandersfish.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous clam pizza is the standout, many other varieties are also worth the wait. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8888 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Kensington's at The Spa at Norwich Inn • ***American*** A first-class restaurant serving gourmet food with an emphasis on natural meats, fresh, locally sourced produce and healthy preparations. • 607 West Thames St., Norwich, (860) 425-3630 (thespaatnorwichinn.com). Open daily. B L D SB, $$$, E, WA

Kitchen Little • ***American*** Enjoy a panoramic view of the Mystic River while dining on eggs Benedict, omelets and other savory egg dishes at this breakfast destination. • 36 Quarry Rd., Mystic (kitchenlittle.org). Open daily for breakfast. Experts' Pick—Best Breakfast. B L (Mon.-Fri.) SB, $

Michael Jordan's Steak House • ***American*** USDA prime steaks, chops and fresh seafood paired with an extensive wine list. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8600 (michaeljordansteakhouse.com). Open daily. D, $$$

Octagon • ***American*** The menu at this upscale yet relaxed steak house includes the signature 24-ounce bone-in rib eye, 14-ounce Kobe sirloin and wild striped bass. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Rd., Groton, (860) 326-0360 (octagonsteakhouse.com). Open daily. D, $$$, R

Old Lyme Inn • ***American*** On the menu at this expertly restored inn are Scottish salmon with wasabi butter, lamb chops with tandoor spices and exquisite desserts such as lemon bar tart with blackberry sauce. • 85 Lyme St., Old Lyme, (860) 434-2600 (oldlymeinn.com). Open daily. L D, $$$, WA [★★★ 10/12]

Oyster Club • ***American*** This popular place showcases food that travels the shortest distance from farm and sea to table, with seasonality and location determining the day's dishes. • 13 Water St., Mystic, (860) 415-9266 (oysterclubct.com). Closed Tues. Experts' Pick—Best Seafood. L (Sat.) D SB, $$, WA [★★½ 6/12]

Paragon • ***American*** This 24th floor aerie is Foxwoods' showpiece, with a menu that highlights organic produce and meats. Some menu highlights: crispy wild boar meatballs, Dover sole with buerre noir and American Wagyu short ribs. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (800) 312-3000 (foxwoods.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. D, $$$, WA

The Recovery Room Restaurant • ***American*** This is the place for designer pizzas, chopped salads and pasta dishes. Full bar. • 445 Ocean Ave., New London, (860) 443-2619 (therecoveryroomnl.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Value. L D, $$, WA

S&P Oyster Co. • ***Seafood*** Serving traditional New England seafood with a South American flair. Enjoy oysters on the half shell, PEI mussels, fresh cuts of fish and Creekstone Farms steaks grilled over hard woods. • 1 Holmes St., Mystic, (860) 536-2674 (sp-oyster.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Shrine • ***Asian Fusion*** A restaurant that serves an array of alluring dishes with Vietnamese, Thai and Japanese influences—and one of the state's hottest night spots. • MGM Grand at Foxwoods, (860) 312-8888 (shrinemgmfoxwoods.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best Asian, Best Cocktails (Scorpion Bar). L D, $$

Tolland County

Altnaveigh Inn & Restaurant • ***American*** This 1734 farmhouse serves filet mignon with port-wine reduction demiglace and pan-seared tuna with onion marmalade. • 957 Storrs Rd., Storrs, (860) 429-4490 (altnaveighinn.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

Asian Bistro • ***Asian Fusion*** A popular hibachi steak house/bar offering great Asian-fusion dishes along with sushi and sashimi. • 95 Storrs Rd., Mansfield, (860) 456-8316 (asianbistromansfield.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Bidwell Tavern • ***American*** This 1822 Coventry tavern, once the town hall, offers prime rib, chicken wings and 24 beers on tap. • 1260 Main St. (Rte. 31), Coventry, (860) 742-6978. Open daily. L D LS, $$, E, WA

The Blue Oak at the Nathan Hale Inn • ***American*** On the UConn campus, enjoy honest New England-style dishes and lighter fare. Great wine selection. • 855 Bolton Rd., Storrs, (860) 427-7888 (nathanhaleinn.com). Open daily. B L D, $$

Rein's New York Style Deli-Restaurant • ***American*** A bright and bustling Jewish deli serving everything from challah French toast and potato pancakes to pastrami Reubens and cheese blintzes. • 435 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 875-1344 (reinsdeli.com). Open daily. B L D LS SB, $, WA

Trattoria da Lepri • ***Italian*** This family-owned and -run eatery prepares dishes from scratch with local ingredients. On the menu: rigatoni Bolognese, veal scallopini Marsala and crabmeat-stuffed shrimp. • 89 West Rd., Ellington, (860) 875-1111 (trattoriadalepri.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. D, $$, WA

The Willows • ***American*** A suave boîte in the DoubleTree Hotel helmed by star chef Leo Bushey III. On the menu: vanilla-poached lobster, pot-au-feu and pork tenderloin roulade with sun-dried fruit. • 42 Century Dr., Bristol, (860) 589-7766, (doubletree-bristol.com). Open daily 5 to 10. D, $$$, WA [★★★½ 8/13]

Wood-n-Tap • ***American*** A hip, fun spot for the whole family also known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. • 236 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 872-6700 (woodntap.com). Open daily. Experts' Pick—Best for Families. L D LS, $, WA

Windham County

85 Main • ***New American*** There's something for everybody at this Main Street fixture: from sushi to duck-liver pâté, pulled-pork barbecue to wild-mushroom ravioli. • 85 Main St., Putnam, (860) 928-1660, (85main.com) Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA [★★ 5/12]

Fiesta Cinco De Mayo • ***Mexican*** A festive spot offering pollo salsa verde, carne asada and great guacamole. • 1228 Main St., Willimantic, (860) 423-9524. Open daily. L D, $$, WA

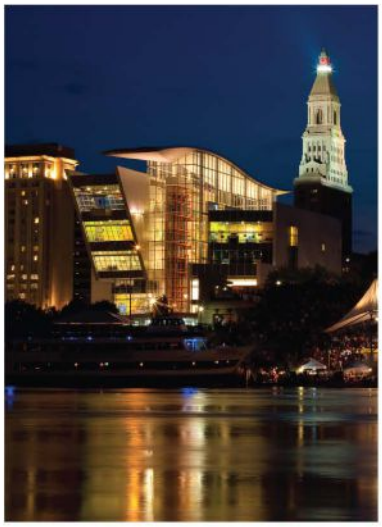
Hank's Restaurant • ***American*** A family place serving home-style chowders, lobster salad rolls and prime rib. • 416 Providence Rd., Brooklyn, (860) 774-6071 (hanksrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$

The Inn at Woodstock Hill • ***American*** The menu at this historic estate includes shrimp-and-sea-scallop stir-fry, fontina-stuffed veal tenderloin Serrano and duckling à l'orange. • 94 Plaine Hill Rd., Woodstock, (860) 928-0528 (woodstockhill.com). Open daily. L (Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, $$$, WA [★★★ 6/13]

J.D. Cooper's • ***American*** A sports pub with walls of sports memorabilia and 125 entrées from prime rib to fajitas to fresh fish. • 146 Park Rd., Putnam, (860) 928-0501. Open daily. L D, $, E (Sat.), WA

The Vanilla Bean Café • ***American*** A beloved restaurant for its homemade soups, award-winning chili, mac & cheese, vegetarian dishes, crème brûlée cheesecake and lots more. • Rtes. 44, 169 & 97, Pomfret, (860) 928-1562 (thevanillabeancafe.com). Open daily. B L D (Wed.-Sun.), $$, E, WA

Willimantic Brewing Co./Main Street Café • ***Brew Pub*** In a historic U.S. Post Office building, beers are brewed in full view of diners. Try the ale-steamed mussels. • 967 Main St., Willimantic, (860) 423-6777 (willibrew.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Sun.) D, $$, WA



2014 Connecticut Five Star Home Professionals

Real Estate Agents | Mortgage Professionals | Home/Auto Insurance Professionals

Five Star Professional partnered with *Connecticut* magazine to identify real estate, mortgage and insurance professionals in the Connecticut area who deliver outstanding service and client satisfaction. The Five Star Professional research team contacted thousands of recent homebuyers, as well as other consumers. Clients may also submit evaluations online. Phone, mail and online respondents rated their service professional on criteria such as overall satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend. The research methodology allows no more than 7 percent of professionals in each category to receive the award. This year's winners are listed and profiled in the following pages (see each award winner's listing for more details).

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a 2014 Connecticut Five Star Real Estate Agent, Five Star Mortgage Professional or Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professional:

1. Received a qualifying client satisfaction rating.
2. Satisfied the applicable state licensing requirements.
3. Actively employed as a licensed professional for a minimum of three years.
4. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review.
5. Satisfied minimum client volume or production on a one-year and three-year basis (number and volume of transactions or number of client households served).

Research DISCLOSURES

- The 2014 Five Star Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final list.
- Each professional is screened against state governing bodies to verify that licenses are current, and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent, mortgage professional or insurance professional on the final lists should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or *Connecticut* magazine.
- The research process incorporates a statistically valid sample in order to identify the professionals in the local market who score highest in overall satisfaction. These professionals are not included on the list unless their score is statistically valid.

For more information on the Five Star award and the research/selection methodology, go to www.fivestarprofessional.com.

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Five Star Professional surveyed Connecticut area residents who purchased a home priced at more than $150,000 within an 8-month period (November 2012 to June 2013). The final list of 2014 Connecticut Five Star Real Estate Agents is a select group, representing less than 7 percent of real estate agents in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarprofessional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

All Areas

Pat Abagnale · Halstead Property

Barbara Adler · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Claire Akerley · CENTURY 21

Pamela Albini · Coldwell Banker

Peter Allam · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Roberta Allen · William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Altieri · Coldwell Banker

Lorraine Amaral · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Dennis Amendola · Weichert, Realtors Shoreline Properties

George Anderson · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Shawn Andreasen · Coldwell Banker

Carol Anelli · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Anthony Annunziato · Coldwell Banker

Todd Auslander · Keller Williams

Dan Babich · William Raveis Real Estate

Jill Bach · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jed Backus · Backus Real Estate

Krista Badstuebner · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jeanne Bailey · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Nancy Bailey · William Raveis Real Estate

David Bain · Bain Real Estate

Leslie Bakshi · William Raveis Real Estate

Raymond Baldelli · Edgehill, Realtors/H. Pearce Real Estate

Fran Ball · Coldwell Banker

Paula Baraket · Page Taft Christie's International Real Estate *Page 14*

Susan Barnhouser · RE/MAX Home Team

James Beamish · William Raveis Real Estate

Katherine Bennett · Betsy Grauer Realty

Rick Berkenstock · CENTURY 21 Connecticut Realty Associates

Lori Bernier · Coldwell Banker

Shirley Birkmeyer · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Lucy Blessey · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Jeffrey Bodeau · William Raveis Real Estate

Karen Bonner · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Ronald Boufford · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Susan Bowes · RE/MAX on the Bay

Sean Bradley · CENTURY 21 Home Services Scalzo Group

David Brand · Keller Williams

Thomas Braunagel · Keller Williams Realty Partners Trumbull

JoAnn Lambert Bredenberg · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 20*

Anne-Lise Brown · Halstead Property

Diana Brown · Coldwell Banker

Arlene Bubbico · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Ann Burgess · Berkshire Hathaway

Daniel Burgio · William Raveis Real Estate

Linda Burnham · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jeralyn Burns · William Raveis Real Estate

Donna Burzynski · Coldwell Banker

Kristen Butts · CENTURY 21 Clemens & Sons

Marla Byrnes · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Dianne Camella · RE/MAX Right Choice

Carol Cangiano · Coldwell Banker Residential & Mortgage Services *Page 14*

Joseph Cannizzaro · RE/MAX *Page 20*

Christopher Carozza · The Carozza Realty Group

Eileen Carpanzano · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Patricia Carpenter · RE/MAX Hometown

Joe Celentano · Coldwell Banker

Marleen Cenotti · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

William Champagne · William Raveis Real Estate

Ellen Christian · Coldwell Banker

Matt Christie · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Terry Cigno · Sotheby's International Realty

Brian Clarke, Jr. · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Curtiss Clemens, Sr. · CENTURY 21 Clemens & Sons

Chris Collins · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Kathleen Connery · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Karen Conniff · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Donna Connolly · Anne Miller Real Estate *Page 20*

Kelly Conway · William Raveis Real Estate

Todd Cooke · Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Ina Cooper · William Raveis Real Estate

Sue Cooper · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Annette Coplit · Coldwell Banker

Christine Cornish · Future Realty

Doreen Corriveau · RE/MAX West of the River

Nadia Corvo · The D'Amore Agency

Joseph Criscuolo · The Home Store Real Estate

Karen Cross · William Raveis Real Estate

Denise Crudele · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Laura Cruger · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Jeanne Crum · Home Selling Team

Paulette Cuozzo · Fairfield County Real Estate

Nancy Currlin · William Raveis Real Estate

Amy Curry · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Rosemarie Cushing · William Raveis Real Estate

Dianne D'Amico · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Laura D'Amico · William Raveis Real Estate

Marlyn D'Amico · RE/MAX

Kim D'Andrea · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Judy Dannemann · William Raveis Real Estate

Dorothy Darlington · William Raveis Real Estate

Annmarie Del Franco · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Linda DeLucia · RE/MAX

Cathy Deschenes · CG Real Estate

Melissa Desjardins · Integrity Homes

Jackie Desmarais · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Vincent Diana · RE/MAX East of the River

Joann Digioia · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sandy DiLieto · Page Taft Christie's International Real Estate

Natuzza Dimasi · William Raveis Middletown

Theresa DiScala · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Suzanne Dodge · William Raveis Real Estate

John Donato, Jr. · Showcase Realty

Joanne Donne · The Washington Agency

Dorothy Dorso · Weichert, Realtors/Briotti Group

Joyce Drakeley · Joyce S. Drakeley Real Estate

James Dressel · RTS Realty Advisors

Deborah Durkee · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Darlene Eaton · Weichert Regional Properties *Page 15*

Peggy Egan · William Raveis Real Estate

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Gayle Erickson-Talbot · Berkshire Hathaway

Susan Esposito · Home Selling Team

Julie Falzone · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Pam Famiglietti · William Raveis Real Estate

Dana Fead · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kim Fenlon · Pearce Real Estate

Elaine Fenster · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Karen Ferranti · The Ferranti Group

Judie Ferraro · Calcagni Real Estate

Robert Ferrigno · William Raveis Real Estate

Kim Fetera · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 18*

Carol Fine · William Raveis Real Estate

Kelly Finn · Al Filippone Associates

Sheila Fiordelisi · Calcagni Real Estate

Christina FitzGerald · Weichert Regional Properties

Dana Flanagan · Prudential

Eileen Foran · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Margaret Foran · Berkshire Hathaway

Susan Foster · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Tom Foster · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Deb Fountain · Berkshire Hathaway

Amanda Fowski · Coldwell Banker

Ellen Fox · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sharon Fox · Berkshire Hathaway

Cathy Fracker · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Angela Franco · Riccio Realty

Missy Freccia · Higgins Group

Katie French · Coldwell Banker *Page 21*

Kenneth Fried · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Jane Galla · Coldwell Banker *Page 21*

Patricia Gallagher · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

David Gallitto · Sterling, Realtors

Suzanne Gallup · William Raveis Real Estate

Joann Gambardella · William Raveis Real Estate

Ellen Garcia · Halstead Property

Sue Gerace · Cornwall Realty Group

Kevin Geysen · Page Taft Christie's International Real Estate

Doris Ghitelman · William Raveis Real Estate

Melissa Giangrasso · Realty World Service *Page 21*

Joyce Gibson · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Kim Gifford · Coldwell Banker

Aurelia Gilbert · Newbridge Realty

Sue Ginsberg-Dejuan · RE/MAX Premier

Penny Gitberg · Landworks Realty

Ellen Gomes · Calcagni Real Estate

Alison Gould · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Mark Graf · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Betsy Grauer · Betsy Grauer Realty

Kevin Green · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Cheryl Gregory · Classic Real Estate

Melissa Grenon-Schena · Coldwell Banker

Tom Greto · William Raveis Real Estate

Rebecca Grieco · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Karen Griffin · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Annie Gura · Coldwell Banker

Judith Halleran · Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate

Joseph Han · Weichert, Realtors

Pat Harrington · Property World

Susan Hatch · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Hawley · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 21*

Nancy Healey · Shore & Country Properties

Alison Healy · William Raveis Real Estate

Stuart Hecht · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

John Hedden · Weichert Regional Properties

William Heenan · Heritage Properties

Edward Higgins · Betsy Grauer Realty

Donald Holland · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Leslie Holland · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Donna Horne · Coldwell Banker

Kathleen Hoyt · William Raveis Real Estate

Donna Huff · Anne Miller Real Estate

Denise Iannucci · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 22*

John Izzo · William Raveis Real Estate

Gina Jacobs · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Sabrina Janco · CENTURY 21 Bay-Mar Realty

Cindy Jannetty · William Raveis Real Estate

Paul Jensen · Coldwell Banker *Page 18*

Kathy Jeski · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 22*

Clifford Juleson · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Elizabeth Kamar · William Raveis Real Estate

Dorothy Karska-Piech · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 22*

Natascha Kay · Pearce Real Estate

Holly Keating · William Raveis Real Estate

Sheila Keenan · Coldwell Banker

Christine Kell · William Raveis Real Estate

Joseph Kelly · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mike Kelly · Mike Kelly Real Estate

Shawnna Kelly · SalCal Real Estate Connections

Trish Kennedy · Higgins Group

Sammy Khouadra · Nationwide Homes and Consulting

Stacy King · RE/MAX Precision Realty

Rita Kirby · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Ed Kleindienst · William Raveis Real Estate

Carol Klimkoski · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Ellen Knowlton · William Raveis Real Estate

Marsha Komarow · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Peter Kot · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Joel Krawitz · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Leslie Krichko · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Joyce Krinitsky · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Dawn Krisavage · Coldwell Banker

Donna Kuehn · Coldwell Banker

Sheryl Kupec · RE/MAX

Andrea Ladd · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Ryan Ladd · RE/MAX Destination

Deborah Laemmerhirt · Coldwell Banker

Sandra Laliberte · Weichert, Realtors/Briotti Group *Page 22*

Linda Lambert · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sheree Landerman · The Buyer's Representative

Jackie Landsberg · William Raveis Real Estate

Scott Lavelle · Coldwell Banker

Barbara Lazzari · William Raveis Real Estate

Mary LeBlanc · Mary LeBlanc Realty

Elizabeth Lecrenier · CENTURY 21 Root Agency

Jean Ledoux · Randall, Realtors Real Living

David Lemel · Coldwell Banker

Robert F. Leonard, Jr. · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Judy Libby · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cynthia Lombardo · Prudential Connecticut Realty

Fernanda Lopes · ERA Goodfellow Homes

Bobbi Loughran · Bobbi and Company

Paul Louie · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Steven Lucca · Keller Williams

Tammy Lucier · RE/MAX Flagship

Lori Macgowan · William Raveis Real Estate

David MacLennan · Calcagni Real Estate

Charity MacPherson · Realty 3 Village & Shoreline

Louise Malone · Randall, Realtors Real Living

Michelle Manter · Keller Williams/Manter Realty Group

Carole Margolis · Coldwell Banker

Linda Marsh · Coldwell Banker

Kathy Marshall · ERA Broder Group

Dan Martin · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 16*

Karen Martin · CENTURY 21 *Page 18*

Vin Masotta · H. Pearce Real Estate

Mark Massaro · Agnelli Real Estate

Nicholas Mastrangelo · Weichert, Realtors Regional Properties

John Mastrianni · Appletown Realty

Neil Matthews · Keystone Realty

Kathy Matyas · Sotheby's International Realty

Patti Maulucci · Keller Williams

Ronald Mazzacane · Coldwell Banker

Nancy McAndrew · Randall, Realtors Real Living

Patricia McCarthy · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 23*

Deb McCarty · William Raveis Real Estate

Gina McDonald · Coldwell Banker

Martha McHutchison · William Raveis Real Estate

Beth McIntyre · Keller Williams

Janet McKenzie · William Raveis Real Estate

Siobhan McLaughlin · William Raveis Real Estate

Cedric McNeil · Keller Williams

Patricia McSorley · Coldwell Banker

Laura Mensi · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Lora Merrill · William Raveis Real Estate

Iris Meyer · William Raveis Real Estate

Lori Meyerson · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Aurelia Michelson · Berkshire Hathaway

Britt Miglietta · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Irvin Miglietta · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Donald Miller · ERA Realty Pros *Page 23*

Jo Mineo · Neumann Real Estate

Sylvia Mitchell · Coldwell Banker *Page 23*

Patricia Moreggi · Berkshire Hathaway

Robert Morey · RE/MAX Right Choice

John Balf Morgan · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

John Mulrooney III · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Joan Murphy · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Trish Murphy · Coldwell Banker

Ali Nabatchian · RE/MAX

Lauren Napoli · Halstead Property

Irma Nesson · Calcagni Associates *Page 23*

Elizabeth Newnham · CENTURY 21 Home Services

Lorna Nichols · Coldwell Banker

Len Nicoletti · Coldwell Banker

Margo Nielson · Coldwell Banker

Deborah Northrop · Prudential Connecticut Realty

Patricia Norton · Heritage Properties

Nina Nyrop · Keller Williams

Lana Ogrodnik · Showcase Realty

Linda O'Hara · William Raveis Real Estate

Robert O'Meara · Keller Williams

Tracey Ozendo · Coldwell Banker Previews International

Kip Palmer · Keller Williams

Cheryl Papageorge · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

George Papageorge · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Adam Paragone · Keller Williams

Wendye Pardue · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 19*

Karen Parrella · Coldwell Banker Riverside

Michael Pavlicin · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Scott Pellerin · Coldwell Banker

Ana Pena · William Raveis Real Estate

Maria Pereira · Keller Williams

Bryce Perry · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kristie Perry · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Suzanne Phillip · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Victor Pina · CENTURY 21 Stamm Eddy

Barbara Podlisny · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 23*

Christina Pope · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

MaryBeth Porto · Weichert, Realtors

Kathleen Prater · RE/MAX Property Consultants

Judith Pressler · Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate

Carla Presz · RE/MAX Central

Andrea Principe · Weichert, Realtors

Lisa Prinz · William Raveis Real Estate

Virginia Proft · William Raveis Real Estate

Ludwig Pulaski · Page Taft Real Living

Barbara Puorro · Carbutti & Company, Realtors *Page 19*

Betsy Purtell · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

John Queenan · Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate

Mary Radziszewski · Weichert, Realtors

Eric Radziunas · Weichert, Realtors Regional Properties

Patricia Rattray · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Madhu Reddy · William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Reid · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Richard Rhatigan · Atherton Associates Commercial Properties

Sherry Rifkin · Coldwell Banker *Page 24*

Lisa Rinaldini · Coldwell Banker Premiere Real Estate

Martha Robilotti · Hensal Realty

Christopher Robinson · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Geralyn Rock · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lizz Romano · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Art Rose · William Raveis Real Estate

Margo Ross · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Lori Rotella · Coldwell Banker Realty 2000

Terri Rotella · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Angela Ruel · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties *Page 19*

Rob Saelens · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Santoro · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Pamela Savejs · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Kathryn Schargus · RE/MAX Property Consultants *Page 19*

Suzanne Scheets · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Kathleen Schellens · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Stephanie Scott · Berkshire Hathaway

Marcia Shaughnessy · William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Shaw · Brotherhood & Higley Real Estate

Margaret Shea · William Raveis Real Estate

Alison Shipley · William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Sibley · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Dawn Siedlarz-Aponte · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Christopher Sikand · William Raveis Real Estate

G. Marie Simmons · Country Manor Realty

Marie Skok · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Sally Smirnoff · Calcagni Real Estate

Sandy Smith · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Deborah Snopkowski · CENTURY 21

Marie Spanbauer · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Spetrini · Coldwell Banker Residential

Clifford Stamm II · CENTURY 21 Stamm Eddy

Johanna Stanko · The D'Amore Agency

George Stankus · Showcase Realty

Judith Starno · Pearce Real Estate *Page 24*

Dawn Sterner · Halstead Property

Dale Stevens · RE/MAX Hometown

Mary Stevens · Mary Stevens Realty

JoAnn Stirling · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Karin Stocknoff · Revis Kasey Group

Samantha Storey · RE/MAX Home Team

Linda Sturm · Coldwell Banker

Amy Swan · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Laura Sydney-Pulton · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Jill Taylor · RE/MAX Right Choice

Maria Taylor · Klemm Real Estate

Norma Taylor · Landworks Realty

Clinton Tebbetts · Weichert, Realtors Regional Properties

Debbie Temple · RE/MAX East of the River/Steve and Debbie Temple Realty

Steve Temple · RE/MAX East of the River/Steve and Debbie Temple Realty

Linda Terhune · Kelly Associates Real Estate

Eric Thal · William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Thill · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lisa Thompson · Calcagni Real Estate

Tim Tierney · Litchfield Hills Sotheby's International Realty *Page 24*

Leslie Timmons · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jeffrey Tisdale · RE/MAX

John Todor · The Washington Agency

Marje Tracy · RE/MAX Right Choice

Wendy Tremaglio · Coldwell Banker Riverside

Kimberly Tripp · William Raveis Real Estate

Maria Turczanik · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Susan Turner · Prudential Connecticut Realty

Anneliese Urpin · Coldwell Banker

Joanne Vaccarino · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Ninfa Valella · Coldwell Banker

Ray Valenti · RE/MAX Professionals

Angelina Valentini · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kennan Van Cisin · William Raveis Real Estate

Maureen Van Hise · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jeffrey Vargovchik · RE/MAX

Kathy Vescera · Keller Williams

Ken Viele · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Maria Vilar · Weichert, Realtors

Raul Villacis · Advantage Realty Group Advisors

Paul Vimini · Vimini Associates

Dian Vince · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Ellen Vincent · William Raveis Real Estate

John Vincent · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cheryl Vitale · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Nancy Warburton · RE/MAX Realty Group

Deborah Ward · Prudential

Ellen Waterhouse · Sotheby's International Realty

Barbara Weinberg · RE/MAX

Nancy Weiner · CENTURY 21 Connecticut Realty Associates

Rick Weiner · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Dianne Weinstock · The Riverside Realty Group *Page 20*

Beverly Welch · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 20*

Victoria Welch · William Raveis Real Estate

Marianne Welintukonis · CENTURY 21

Lauren Wendell · Coldwell Banker

Wendy Westcott · Klemm Real Estate

Claire Whalen · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Chloe White · Keller Williams

Diane White · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Wendy White · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Ilene Whitmarsh · RE/MAX Destination

Connie Widmann · William Raveis Real Estate

Sandra Wieczorek · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Fran Wiehn · Randall, Realtors Real Living

Sue Wittekind · William Raveis Real Estate

Amity Wolfe · William Raveis Real Estate

Mindy Wolkstein · William Raveis Real Estate

Shanyelle Young · Gillette Real Estate

Shirley Zaccara · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Tara Zegarski-Stirk · William Raveis Real Estate

Avon

Silvia Bahjat-Rodriguez · Vision Real Estate

Mary Jane Bannerman · Coldwell Banker

Barbara Burton · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Gregory Frey · RE/MAX Prime Realty

Karen Gibb · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Charles Hartigan · Coldwell Banker

George Herman · Farmington Woods Realty

Valarie Holst · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Laurie Kane · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jenifer Philpot · Coldwell Banker

Steffen Reich · William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Scapellati · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jeff Schleppy · Farmington Woods Realty

Laura Witt · Coldwell Banker

Berlin

Mary Jean Agostini · Realty 3

Margaret Mullaney · William Raveis Real Estate

Chris Rose · ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate

Bethel

Jay Streaman · RE/MAX Right Choice

Gary Teetsel · CENTURY 21

Bloomfield

Kristina Zack · Keller Williams

Branford

Tracy Bonito · William Raveis Real Estate

Philip Carloni · RE/MAX Alliance

Janet Cavaliere · RE/MAX

Jeffrey Clark · Coldwell Banker

Jana Ghidossi · Coldwell Banker Coast & Country

Pamela Giordano · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Michael Maynard · New Neighbors Realty

Susan Mullane · Weichert, Realtors

Alison Perrelli · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sheridan Peterson · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Gene Pica · RE/MAX Alliance

Alison Shaheen · Pearce Real Estate

Bristol

Doris Bachand · Country Manor Realty

Mary Flo Cleaver · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Peter Dekoe · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Paula Kendall · Country Manor Realty

Sharon Rinaldi · Country Manor Realty

Joan Vallee · Coldwell Banker Premiere Real Estate

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Brookfield

Kellie Martone · Hensal Realty

Linda McCaffrey · Coldwell Banker Residential *Page 23*

Patricia McManus · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Brooklyn

Barbara Diaz · RE/MAX Bell Park Realty

Burlington

Mark DiChiara · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Carole Etzel · William Raveis Real Estate

Canton

Julius Fialkiewicz · Realty Works

Linda Kessler · William Raveis Real Estate

Linda King · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties *Page 22*

Cheshire

Sally Bowman · Sally Bowman Real Estate *Page 14*

Karen Brimberg · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Karen A. Buell · Smedes Realty

Chris Canfield · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sharon Coughlin · William Raveis Real Estate

Paula Criscuolo · Calcagni Associates

Dawn D'Auria · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Stacey DeAngelis · Calcagni Real Estate

Doreen Duchette · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Liz Forrest · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Joanne Hale · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Laura Iorio · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 22*

Laureen Kennedy · Coldwell Banker *Page 16*

Deborah Kulik · William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Lydell · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 18*

Mary Malin · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 23*

Agnes Nawrocki · William Raveis Real Estate

Cheri Paulsen · William Raveis Real Estate

Marilyn Rock · Calcagni Real Estate

George Santos · George J. Santos & Associates *Page 24*

Stephen Votto · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sandy Wagner · Calcagni Real Estate

Chester

Lisa Tiezzi · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Clinton

Doris Fallon · William Raveis Real Estate

Colchester

Gita Burzycki · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Maria Colacicco · William Raveis Real Estate

Joyce Covone · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Linda Gurtel · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sandra Lindstrom · Prudential Connecticut Realty

Mary Parker · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Torey Zahacefski · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Columbia

Rick Nassiff · CG Real Estate

Coventry

Cheryl Trudon · ERA Blanchard & Rossetto *Page 24*

Cromwell

Ryan Vincenti · Hagel & Associates Real Estate Company

Danbury

Debbie Balmaseda · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Sarah Becker · Best Realty

Marie Borner · Coldwell Banker

Pamela Conn · Weichert, Realtors

Mary Foley · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Jonathan Hall · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Karl Horberg · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kim Kendall · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Betsy Levin · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Svetlana Mastrogiannis · William Raveis Real Estate

Betsy Pankulis · Best Realty

Carolyn Ridenour · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Carol Riley · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

RuthAnne Salvatore · ERA Goodfellow Homes

Josephine Simko · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties *Page 19*

Kathleen Soares · ERA Goodfellow Homes *Page 24*

David Stuckey · Coldwell Banker

Michael Vartolone · William Raveis Real Estate

Sadie Virtudes · Preferred Properties

Darien

Vanda Baker · RealtyQuest

Deborah Brennan · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Nancy Dauk · Halstead Property

Robyn de Castro · Kelly Associates Real Estate

Gunnar Edelstein · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Meghan Gatt · William Raveis Real Estate

Ingrid Hess · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Daria Kamford · Halstead Property

Linda Malpass · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Rebecca Munro · Halstead Property

Molly O'Brien · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Pam Roberts · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Wendy Ryan · William Raveis Real Estate/Al Filippone Associates

Stephan Von Jena · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Wendy Ward · Halstead Property

Durham

Deborah Huscher · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 22*

Pamela Sawicki-Beaudoin · Realty Associates *Page 16*

East Haddam

Jackie Nowell · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

East Hampton

Carl Guild · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Dean Markham · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cindy Rooth · CENTURY 21

East Hartford

Mary Beth Nunez · CENTURY 21 Classic Homes

Jody Smaglis · CENTURY 21

East Haven

Kasondra Brochu · Realty World Clayton

East Lyme

James Childs · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Amanda Gaudette · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jason McKiernan · Heritage Properties

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Easton

Kelly Higgins · William Raveis Real Estate

Gayle Worthington · William Raveis Real Estate

Ellington

Sallie Cappadora · RE/MAX Destination

Merrill Kloter · RE/MAX Destination

Lisa Rogstad · Prudential

Kathleen Sitek · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Enfield

Julie Bushnell · RE/MAX

Lori Gabriel · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Carol Hall · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Michele Lizee · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Dee Mack · RE/MAX Hometown

Elaine Smith · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Essex

Linda Hicks · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mick Marsden · Page Taft Real Living/The River to Shore Group

Jane Pfeffer · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mariette Woolfson · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Fairfield

Leona Attenberg · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Zoe Bebon · William Raveis Real Estate

Mary Bevvino · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Wendy Brandt-Martinenas · William Raveis Real Estate

Pamela Buzi · William Raveis Real Estate

Marilyn Caravetta · Neumann Real Estate

Barbara Carroll · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Heidi Cinder · William Raveis Real Estate

Rosemarie Cito · Coldwell Banker

Charlotte Cotton · William Raveis Real Estate

Frank Duzy · Higgins Group

Patricia Eilenberg · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Debbie Fink · Realty Seven

John Hackett · William Raveis Real Estate

Jennifer Hilbert · William Raveis Real Estate

Sangeeta Jain · Jain Realty

Cristin Jameson · William Raveis Real Estate/Al Filippone Associates

Leena Krook · William Raveis Real Estate

Lois Lipow · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Carol McCullough · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Noella Mena · Bivins Realty Group

Cathy Mulrenan · Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate

Joan Neiley · Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate

Shari Nerreau · William Raveis Real Estate

Sarah Pritchard · William Raveis Real Estate/ Snyder & Pritchard Homes

Linda Raymond · William Raveis Real Estate Mortgage & Insurance

Gail Robinson · William Raveis Real Estate

John Shea · William Raveis Real Estate

Sherri Steeneck · Higgins Group *Page 17*

Harriet Stone · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Valerie Szondy · RE/MAX Heritage

Rita Tanis · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Steven Thomson · Coldwell Banker Riverside

Nancy Thorne · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cathy Van Tornhout · Fairfield County Real Estate

Julie Vanderblue · Higgins Group

Carol Weir · William Raveis Real Estate

Farmington

Melody Barker · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Sandy Gervais · Coldwell Banker

John Giblin · Keller Williams/Gabey Realty

Carole King · Keller Williams

Alexsi Mallory · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Paul Stepka · Vision Real Estate

Glastonbury

Jonathan Archer · Horizon Realty

Jamie Bell · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Cheryl Bergeron · William Raveis Real Estate

Mike DeFosses · William Raveis Real Estate

Linda Edelwich · William Raveis Real Estate

Bryan Feery · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Yola Feery · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Harry Finer · William Raveis Real Estate

Scott Henry · Henry Real Estate Services

Joyce Miglietta · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Tracy Molloy · Berkshire Hathaway

Dorothy Ogden · William Raveis Real Estate

Louis Preli · William Raveis Real Estate

Amy Rio · Executive Real Estate

Julia Rosner · Coldwell Banker

Nancy Stetson · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kathy Urbanetti · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Margaret Wilcox · William Raveis Real Estate

Granby

Barbara Berkowitz · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Joan Ducharme · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Judy Guarco · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Karen Longley · Keller Williams

Greenwich

Brian Amen · William Raveis Real Estate

Suzanne Armstrong · Coldwell Banker *Page 17*

Jane Basham · David Ogilvy & Associates

Mona Beerman · Halstead Property

Richard Breglia · Coldwell Banker Residential

Barbara Cioffari · Greenwich Fine Properties

Joanne Edwards · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Joan Epand · Shore & Country Properties

Bobbie Hopkins · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Robin Kencel · Houlihan Lawrence

Paul Larson · Sotheby's International Realty

Richard Loh · Shore & Country Properties

Lucy Ann Macaluso · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Louise A. Marasso · Sotheby's International Realty

Patti Meyer · Halstead Property

Jennifer O'Brien · Shore & Country Properties

Maria Ruggeberg · William Raveis Real Estate

Carolyn Sarsen · David Ogilvy & Associates

Susan Schruth · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Marguerite Vauclair · William Raveis Real Estate

Julianne C. Ward · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Joseph Williams III · Greenwich Fine Properties

Groton

Lian Obrey · RE/MAX Property Consultants

Groton Long Point

Gay Gallagher · Gay Tyler Gallagher Real Estate Company

Guilford

Shane Bradley · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Jane Cardarelli · William Raveis Real Estate

Fred Corey · RE/MAX Alliance

Dorothy Engstrom · Pearce Real Estate

Jules Gaughran-Etes · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Barbara Goetsch · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Svetlana Goletz · Coldwell Banker

Susan Jacobson · William Raveis Real Estate

David Mayhew · H. Pearce Real Estate

Susan Popplewell · H. Pearce Real Estate

Sandra Reiners · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 19*

Deborah Rowe · William Raveis Real Estate

Blythe Smith · William Raveis Real Estate

Leigh Whiteman · William Raveis Real Estate

Haddam

Deborah Bowles · William Raveis Real Estate

Hamden

Beth Cantor · Calcagni Real Estate *Page 20*

John Cuozzo · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Margaret Lynch · Regan Real Estate

Ellen Nathanson · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Loretta Rennie · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Cheryl Rennie-Smith · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Carol Shank · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Hartford

Amy Bergquist · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Kyle Bergquist · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Ben Castonguay · Sentry Real Estate

Lesbia Hernandez · RE/MAX Renaissance

Kathryn Sargent · William Raveis Real Estate Mortgage & Insurance

Hebron

Marielle Bilodeau · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Cathyann Schulte · Countryside Realty

Killingworth

Marsha Couture · William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Dansereau · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 18*

Lakeville

Mimi Harson · Litchfield Hills Sotheby's International Realty

Ledyard

Carol Christiansen · RE/MAX Realty Group

Litchfield

Bill Downes · Gooseboro Realty

Suzanne Doyle · Sotheby's International Realty

Kristine Girardin-Newell · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Lyme

Allyson Cotton · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Joe Malerba · Heritage Properties

Madison

Wil Aloe · Berkshire Hathaway

Paul Beckman · William Raveis Real Estate

Lana Costeines · William Raveis Real Estate

Allison Gentile-Pollack · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Robin Keegan · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 15*

Tracey Kersteen · William Raveis Real Estate

Catharina Lynch · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 22*

Laurie Mazzeo · Sotheby's International Realty

Bonnie McManamy · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty *Page 18*

Laurie McMann · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Margaret Muir · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty *Page 23*

Heidi Pastore · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty *Page 23*

Lisa P. Rollins · Coldwell Banker/The Rollins Group

Jerry Sherman · William Raveis Real Estate & Home Services

Maureen Sherman · William Raveis Real Estate

Sheila Tinn-Murphy · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Sue Woods · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Bette Zollshan · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Manchester

Stacey Costanzo · Executive Real Estate

Eric Gregan · ERA Blanchard & Rossetto

Margaret Gregan · ERA Blanchard & Rossetto *Page 21*

Linda Lohnes · RE/MAX East/West of the River

Clare Miller-Burti · Anne Miller Real Estate

Shelby Muraski · CENTURY 21 Classic Homes

Paige Niver · ERA Blanchard & Rossetto

Mansfield

Jack Fulton · Home Selling Team

Marlborough

Corinne Machowski · RE/MAX Edge

Meriden

Lisa Golebiewski · Realty Associates *Page 16*

John Maier · Maier Real Estate *Page 23*

Judith Mik · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Sandy Maier Schede · Maier Real Estate *Page 24*

Daniela Volo · Calcagni Associates

Middlebury

Donna Bannon · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Lori Geraci · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Beth Santos · Bannon & Hebert Properties

Middletown

Thomas Abbate · William Raveis Real Estate

Bruce Bayles · William Raveis Real Estate

Phyllis Bysiewicz · Ameritage Group

Patricia Flynn · Sterling, Realtors

Kerry Hart · William Raveis Real Estate

Pam Rizy · Berkshire Hathaway

Danae Stoane · Sterling, Realtors *Page 24*

Arthur Tatta · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jacqueline Williams · Sterling, Realtors

Milford

Kathy Anderson · Coldwell Banker Residential Services

Carolyn Augur · William Raveis Real Estate

Sue Dubrow · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lee Durner · Coldwell Banker

Stephanie Ellison · RE/MAX Right Choice

Kerry Gorman · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Joseph Iamunno · Property World

Karen Kline · The Real Estate Gallery of CT

Janie Merola · RE/MAX Right Choice *Page 23*

Walter Nichols · Property World

Richard Persico · RE/MAX Right Choice

Jim Porto · Coldwell Banker

Donna Tartagni · Coldwell Banker

Michelle Uss · William Raveis Real Estate

Wendy Weir · RE/MAX Right Choice

Linda Wilson · Coldwell Banker

Montviole

Linda Lapierre · The Partner Network

Mystic

Cheryl Auerbach · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties *Page 20*

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Timothy Bray · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Debra Chamberlain · William Raveis Real Estate

Michael Collins · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Marie Cox · Berkshire Hathaway

Jeanne Fellows-Grills · William Raveis Real Estate

Joanne Kelley · Coldwell Banker

Stella Neves-Elbaum · William Raveis Real Estate

Michele Peters · Randall, Realtors Real Living

Kathryn Roy · William Raveis Real Estate

Naugatuck

Jennifer Merrill · Coldwell Banker Realty 2000

New Canaan

Candace Blackwood · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Robbie Blosio · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Marsha Charles · Coldwell Banker Previews International

Barbara Gronseth · Halstead Property

Gerry Harrington · Halstead Property

Carol Hollyday · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Maria Miller · William Raveis Real Estate

Emily Restifo · Brotherhood & Higley Real Estate

Christine Saxe · Halstead Property

Karen Sneirson · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kathryn Tanner · Brotherhood & Higley Real Estate

Bill Taylor · Brotherhood & Higley Real Estate

Becky Walsh · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

New Fairfield

Beverly Fairchild · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

New Hartford

David D'Amore, Jr. · The D'Amore Agency

Scott Holmes · Coldwell Banker

New Haven

William Bonos · Coldwell Banker *Page 20*

Mary Jane Burt · The Pearce Company, Realtors

Tina DeConne · Coldwell Banker

John Gaudioso · Gaudioso, Realtors *Page 21*

Joe Giordano · RE/MAX Alliance

Jeffrey Granoff · GRL & Realtors

Anne Marseille · Betsy Grauer Realty

Brian Pieczko · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Greg Robbins · William Raveis Real Estate

Linda Sauve · H. Pearce Real Estate

Alice Schwartz · Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Dolores Strode · Pearce Company *Page 24*

Cheryl Szczarba · Seabury Hill, Realtors

New London

Paul Higgins · Coldwell Banker

New Milford

Lori Campbell · Coldwell Banker

Joe Chemero · Coldwell Banker

Raymond Getman · William Raveis Real Estate

Newington

Tom Fudacz · Modern Real Estate

Allen L. Grover · Weichert, Realtors/The Zubretsky Group

John Valdez · Executive Real Estate

Newtown

Janet Bottiglieri · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Eileen Brooks · William Raveis Real Estate

Elizabeth Caldwell · William Raveis Real Estate

Lisa DeVellis · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Christine Fairchild · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Jane Phillips · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Andy Sachs · Coldwell Banker

Necole Salvesen · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Barbara Snyder · Coldwell Banker

Debra Trillhaase · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Diane Tyrrell · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Richelle Ward · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Robert J. Ward · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Niantic

Edward Bowes · RE/MAX on the Bay

Eric Engdall · Heritage Properties

Luann Perkins · Heritage Properties

North Haven

Thomas Cristofano · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 21*

Dana Longley · Coldwell Banker

Eileen Smith · Pearce Real Estate

Linda Teixeira-Ohr · H. Pearce Real Estate

Norwalk

Ellen Balazs · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jeffrey Byington · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Roseann Conti · Coldwell Banker *Page 21*

Jacqueline Coppola · William Raveis Real Estate

Stephen Hanson · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Hanson · William Raveis Real Estate

Mark Namm · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Anthony Parenti · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Steve Scatamacchia · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 24*

Thomas Shrum · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Norwich

Irene Donovan · Mary Miskiewicz Real Estate

Laura Frisch · Heritage Properties

Cynthia Hellman · William Raveis Real Estate

Old Lyme

Marilyn Jacobs · Coldwell Banker *Page 18*

Terry Kemper · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Nancy Mesham · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Laurie Walker · Coldwell Banker *Page 24*

Old Saybrook

David Genovali · RE/MAX Valley Shore-Genovali Realty *Page 15*

Lisa Genovali · RE/MAX Valley Shore-Genovali Realty *Page 15*

Susan Malton · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Sandra Orsie · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Bill Sage · Coldwell Banker *Page 19*

Cherie Suhie · J M Realty

Orange

Maribeth Lightowler · Coldwell Banker

MaryAnn White · Coldwell Banker

Oxford

Mary Adzima · Coldwell Banker

Tom Assheton · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Patricia Blanko · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 13*

Linda Ragozzine · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Plainfield

Christine Johnson · Larrow's Real Estate

Plymouth

Michael Ganem · Michael Ganem & Associates

Pomfret

Mary Collins · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Preston

Gail Whitney · Performance Realty

Prospect

David Jones · Dave Jones Realty

Anne Krings · Pavlik Real Estate

Robert Lauer · Smedes Realty *Page 22*

Richard Pavlik · Pavlik Real Estate

Deborah Pavlik-Ridolfi · Pavlik Real Estate

Putnam

JoAnn Hall · Loomis Real Estate

Redding

Roni Agress · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kim Cuniberti · Coldwell Banker

Marge Lanzara · Coldwell Banker

Lisa Pompeo · Coldwell Banker

Marilyn Sloper · Coldwell Banker

Ridgefield

Linda Anderson · CENTURY 21 Landmark Properties

Lisa Brown · RE/MAX Right Choice

Zaza Chilvers · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Terry Conlon · Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate

Carole Cousins · CENTURY 21 Landmark Properties

Tim Dent · CENTURY 21 Landmark Properties

Laura Freed-Ancona · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Sharon Greene · RE/MAX Right Choice

Sally Hahn · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Caren Harrington · Keller Williams

Joann Kish · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Rita Lopes · Weichert, Realtors *Page 22*

Maureen Maher · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Margaret Marconi · Keller Williams

Nita Mohler · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Karla Murtaugh · Neumann Real Estate

Susanne Prial · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Jane Scarbrough · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Kathryn Schmitt · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty *Page 16*

Lonnie Shapiro · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Kristi Vaughan · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Rocky Hill

Noreen Salonikios · CENTURY 21

Dawn Satagaj · William Raveis Real Estate

Tammy Varney · William Raveis Real Estate

Kathy Zdeb · Coldwell Banker Calabro & Associates

Rowayton

Mary Ellen Barrelle · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Andrea Kostanecki · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Tammy Langalis · William Raveis Real Estate

Jane Ready · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Roxbury

Cecelia Santillo · Klemm Real Estate

Donna Zehring · Klemm Real Estate

Salisbury

Leslie Bell · Elyse Harney Real Estate

Elvia Gignoux · Best & Cavallaro Real Estate

Elyse Harney Morris · Elyse Harney Real Estate

Seymour

Rosalie Averill · Rupwani Associates Real Estate *Page 17*

Shelton

Karen Berwick · Real Estate Two

Barbara Crawford · Carey & Guarrera Real Estate

Lisa Glazer · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

James Guarrera · Carey & Guarrera Real Estate

Stephen Guarrera · Carey & Guarrera Real Estate

Anita Pavone · Real Estate Two

Carlos Perez · RE/MAX Right Choice

Toni Tice · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Varrone · Carey & Guarrera Real Estate

Sherman

Ronni Zecher · William Raveis Real Estate

Simsbury

Susan Arsenault · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 20*

Tracy Blumberg · Resort Brokerage

Sandra Bourke · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Beverly Demadis · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Susanne Leighton · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Barbara LeVine · Coldwell Banker

Linda Oseychik · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Nancy Thoma · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Somers

Joann Batchelor · RE/MAX Hometown

Richard F. Corrado · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

South Windsor

Brian Burke · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Bob Knurek · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

James Knurek · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Bill Mamak · RE/MAX East of the River

Dawn Nostin · Executive Real Estate

Karen O'Connor · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kevin Paradis · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Marilyn Pugliese · Dzen Realty

Julie Tetreault · Wallace Tustin Tetreault Realty

Southbury

Kary Apanovitch · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Justin Bette · Joseph Bette, Realtors

Colleen Burne · Coldwell Banker Residential

Jeff Colt · Coldwell Banker

Dennis DeSantis · Heritage Village Real Estate

Jan Hlywa · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 22*

Ronald Nettleton · William Raveis Real Estate

Amy Pelletier · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Gloria Reynolds · William Raveis Real Estate

Tatyana Shafir · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Molly Shealy · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Shari Sirkin · William Raveis Real Estate

Marian Van Egas · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Margaret Yonika · William Raveis Real Estate

Helen Zummo · Heritage Village Real Estate

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Southington

Joyce Brown · Keller Williams

Carrie Korenkiewicz · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Brian Perrella · Perrella Realty

John Perriello · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Patti Raffile · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Jeff Wight · CENTURY 21

Southport

Nancy Dolan · Luxury Real Estate *Page 21*

Laura Wendt · William Raveis Real Estate

Stamford

Keith Balentine · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Joelle Bentley · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Joan Breslow · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Howard Dubman · William Raveis Real Estate

Diane Eliades · Halstead Property

Olwyn Fagan · William Raveis Real Estate

Laura Feghali · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Geri Guzinski · William Raveis Real Estate

Melanie Healey · New Bridge Properties

Elayne Jassey · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Jeannie Kasindorf · Keller Williams

Marilynn Loglisci · Higgins Group *Page 22*

Roger Norum · Higgins Group

Elaine Parruccini · Keller Williams

John Pellegrino · William Raveis Real Estate

Timothy Piedmont · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Robin Schultz · Coldwell Banker

Len Schwartz · Keller Williams

Linda Sorbo · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Monie Sullivan · William Raveis Real Estate

Jim Troy · Independent, Realtors

Tom Vozzella · Berkshire Hathaway

Barbara Webski · Weichert, Realtors

Valerie Willey · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Edward Yuchowitz · Weichert, Realtors

Stonington

Bruce Drake · Randall, Realtors Real Living

Morag M. Morse · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Thomas Switz · Switz Real Estate Associates

Nancy Tapley · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Storrs

Marylou Bradley · RE/MAX East of the River

Steven Ferrigno · Ferrigno-Storrs, Realtors

Peter Millman · Weichert, Realtors Four Corners Real Estate

Storrs Mansfield

Deborah Chabot · RE/MAX East of the River

Stratford

Richard Brown · RE/MAX Right Choice

Ken Caserta · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mary Casey · William Raveis Real Estate

Denise Curcio · William Raveis Real Estate/The Curcio Group

Deborah Loban · William Raveis Real Estate and Home Services

Megan O'Connell-Albright · William Raveis Real Estate

Bonnie Reynolds · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

John Rose · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Suffield

Brian Banak · Coldwell Banker

Roland Dowd · Dowd Realty Group

Melanie McGann · Dowd Realty Group

Stephanie Salerno · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Joanne Sullivan · Chestnut Oak Associates

Dan Yates · Coldwell Banker

Robin Zatony · Dowd Realty Group

Thomaston

James Kaniewski · Town and Country Real Estate

Tolland

Lisa Gordon · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Judith Schachner · Keller Williams

Joe Sciarra · D.W. Fish Real Estate

Torrington

Barbara Guida · CENTURY 21 Command Realty

Susan Holway · Showcase Realty

Nancy Schroeder Perez · The Washington Agency

Colleen Platt · The Washington Agency

Robert Szabo · Szabo Realty

Trumbull

Joan Anderson · Coldwell Banker

Jeffrey Craw · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 21*

Darcy Hall · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Michael Joyce · Michael Joyce Real Estate

Joseph Kapell · RE/MAX Right Choice

Gloria Lage · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Steven Lage · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lisa Marino · Keller Williams

John McBride · RE/MAX Right Choice

Christine Penney · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Daniel Ranocchia · Higgins Group

Fran Varcoe · RealtyQuest

Kim Vartuli · Higgins Group/Vanderblue Team

Terri Vreeland · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Vernon

Jennifer Holt · Campbell-Keune Realty

Sophie Homicki · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Susanne Vacek · D.W. Fish Real Estate

Wallingford

Margaret Bennett · RE/MAX Professionals

Linda Bohne · Keller Williams *Page 18*

Anna Buono · Calcagni Real Estate

Patrick Combs · Dan Combs Real Estate

Linda Conchado · Keller Williams *Page 20*

Mary Edeen · Calcagni Real Estate

Dawn Hoydilla · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Allison Hughes · William Raveis Real Estate

Robin Soboleski · Realty Associates

Stephen Thompson · Dan Combs Real Estate

Lucille Trzcinski · Main Line New England Real Estate

Cheryl Ulstad · Calcagni Real Estate

Louise Zemina · McLaughlin Real Estate

Washington

Margaret Garguilo · Litchfield Hills Sotheby's International Realty

Carolyn Klemm · Klemm Real Estate

Waterford

Charene Clark · Heritage Properties

Dyann DeGaetano · William Raveis Real Estate

Geoff Hausmann · RE/MAX Property Consultants

Susan Hinebaugh · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Marilyn Lusher · RE/MAX Home Team

Marianne Malerba · Heritage Properties

Michelle Mayo · RE/MAX Home Team

Five Star Real Estate Agents

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Watertown

Theresa Gorman · Weichert, Realtors/Briotti Group

West Hartford

Mollie Abend · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Donna Anderson-Halloran · William Raveis Real Estate

Michael Antisdale · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lisa Barall-Matt · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Jessica Beganski · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 17*

Bonnie Berliner · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors *Page 13*

Evan Berman · ERA Broder Group

David Bobowski · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Melinda Bonin · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors *Page 13*

Margaret Brennan · William Raveis Real Estate

Eileen Brewer-Akin · William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Brine · Coldwell Banker

Lisa Campo · William Raveis Real Estate

Ana Festa · eXp Realty of CT *Page 21*

Hope B. Firestone · William Raveis Real Estate

Kara Flanagan · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Robin Gebrian · Coldwell Banker *Page 21*

Grace Jacobs · William Raveis Real Estate

Patrick James · Keller Williams

Linda Johnson · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors *Page 15*

Carl Lantz · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Ellyn Marshall · William Raveis Real Estate

Ursula Marx · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Mark Merin · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Matthew Miale · Keller Williams *Page 19*

Laurie Murray · Keller Williams

Lisa Ogren · Keller Williams

Margaret O'Keefe · RE/MAX Premier *Page 23*

Suzanne Schumann · William Raveis Real Estate

Annie Sullivan · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors *Page 24*

Janet Tanner · RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Holly Walsh · Keller Williams

Suzanne Walsh · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 20*

Maryalice Widness · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

West Haven

Francesca Gregoriades · Harborview Realty Services

Wayne Hugendubel · Coldwell Banker

Westbrook

Jennifer Buchanan · RE/MAX Alliance

Westport

Susan Albright · The Riverside Realty Group

Karen Amaru · William Raveis Real Estate

Sheri Horowitz · The Riverside Realty Group

David Kinyon · William Raveis Real Estate

Viveka Kjellgren · William Raveis Real Estate

Marilyn Klemish · Halstead Property

Anne Landis · William Raveis Real Estate

Molly Lane · William Raveis Real Estate

Joann Lindwall · Weichert, Realtors

Joelle Malec · William Raveis Real Estate

Janet Nalezynski · Coldwell Banker Riverside

Mary Petro-Noonan · Coldwell Banker

Patricia Prenderville · Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate

Cynthia Raney · The Riverside Realty Group

Maryann Ross-Levanti · Higgins Group

Darcy Sledge · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Richard St. Francis · William Raveis Real Estate

Judy Szablak · Coldwell Banker

Joni Usdan · Coldwell Banker

Lynn Walkoff · William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Liping Wang · Property World USA

Wethersfield

Sharon Carducci · William Raveis Real Estate

Annie Dillon · William Raveis Real Estate

Wayne Horgan · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Neil Howett · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Julie Lemos · CENTURY 21 Clemens & Sons

Dick Peplau · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Tom Pia · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Makaela Stevens · Weichert, Realtors

Wilton

Deborah Estes · Realty Seven

Marion Filley · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Margaret Koellmer · Realty Seven

Anne Oliver · Halstead Property

Susan Resch · William Raveis Real Estate *Page 13*

Judy Robinson · Realty Seven

Dori Seamans · Realty Seven *Page 24*

Jeffrey Turner · Coldwell Banker Previews

Cindy Wein · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lorraine Winsor · Realty Seven

Windham

Tina Bilanceri · CG Real Estate

Clarence Russ · Home Selling Team

Windsor

Lynne Gillette · Gillette Real Estate

Andy Johnson · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Michael O'Brien · William Raveis Real Estate

Sharon Rispoli · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Lodia Vola · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

John F. Waters · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Mary Welsh · CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Windsor Locks

Darryl LeFebvre · Merrigan & LeFebvre Realty

Gloria McMann-Clark · Merrigan & LeFebvre Realty

Daniel Merrigan · Merrigan & LeFebvre Realty

Gary S. Merrigan · Merrigan & LeFebvre Realty

Wolcott

Tracy Beckley · Keller Williams

Linda Fercodini · Fercodini Properties

Lynn Lombardi · Fercodini Properties

Woodbridge

Carol Agin · Coldwell Banker Woodbridge

Pat Cardozo · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage *Page 14*

Judy Cooper · Coldwell Banker

John Coppola · William Raveis Real Estate

Arlene Levine · Coldwell Banker

Woodbury

Timothy Drakeley · Joyce S. Drakeley Real Estate

John Well · Realty Executives Welcome

Woodstock

John Downs · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Fred Gillette · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Monique Maldonado · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Four-year winner Susan Resch

Susan Resch

Professional, Knowledgeable

- Expert negotiator with integrity
- Top 10 Producer 2012, William Raveis
- Office Top Producer (2010 – 2013)
- Full-service real estate professional
- Excellent advice and personal service

Susan has a wealth of experience in the Fairfield County real estate area and has listed and sold premier properties, starter homes for the first-time buyer and everything in between. Her very successful career speaks to her ability to consistently exceed expectations. She offers expert advice with personal service, is results oriented and can close the deal. Susan is consistently ranked as a top associate based on CMLS statistics and has been awarded multiple achievements.

"I am honored to be selected as a Five Star Professional award recipient again this year and would like to thank my clients for their continued support."

Susan Resch REALTOR

William Raveis
44 Old Ridgefield Road
Wilton, CT 06897
Office: 203-762-8300
Cell: 203-644-5055
susanresch@aol.com
susanresch.com

Pat Blanko

PAT BLANKO
THE OXFORD GROUP
Experience isn't expensive ... it's priceless

William Raveis Real Estate
141 Main St. N
Southbury, CT 06488
Cell: 203-206-9194
patblanko@yahoo.com
www.patblanko.com

No. 1 Listing Agent 2013 – 2014 for William Raveis

- Listing and buyer specialist
- Staging and some of the best virtual tours
- New construction
- Relocation and exceptional properties
- 55-plus active adult communities

Experience isn't expensive … it's priceless! Pat has built her reputation and business believing this. She is a listing and buyer specialist with more than 18 years of experience and has been consistently ranked a *No. 1 listing and selling agent in the area by William Raveis Real Estate.* Pat specializes in Oxford, Southbury and the Valley.

Left to right: **Four-year winners Melinda Bonin** and **Bonnie Berliner**

Bonnie and Melinda

Knowledge • Integrity • Results

- Relationships built on trust and respect
- 90% of business from past clients and referrals
- Committed to extraordinary customer service
- 95% of our listings have successfully closed
- Specializing in West Hartford and the surrounding area

RE/MAX Premier, Realtors
75 Brace Road • West Hartford, CT 06107
Bonnie: 860-836-6751 • Melinda: 860-930-4546
Bonnie@remax-premier-ct.com • www.BonnieAndMelinda.com

FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL

Five Star Real Estate Agents

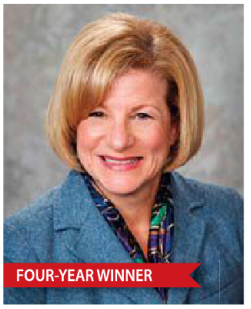
Sally Bowman

220 Old Towne Rd.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Office: 203-272-2828
Cell: 203-687-8026
sally@sallybowmanrealestate.com
sallybowmanrealestate.com

Connected to the Cheshire Community

- Local knowledge of Cheshire
- Ability to get results
- Common-sense approach
- Strong knowledge of new construction
- Enthusiastic and dedicated to the needs of clients

I have been working with buyers and sellers since 2003. Adapting to the ever-changing market and working hard for my clients are the core of my business. Having a strong local knowledge of the building and construction business has given me an invaluable perspective and unique advantage in evaluating and assessing homes.



Carol P. Cangiano

Coldwell Banker

564 Racebrook Rd.
Orange, CT 06477
Office: 203-795-2437
Cell: 203-605-4480
carolcangiano@gmail.com
www.carolcangiano.com

Expect Success

- Uncompromising service
- Creative problem-solving
- Expert negotiation
- Innovative marketing
- Serving New Haven County and the shoreline

The secret to experiencing success in every aspect of your life is finding the right partner; success in real estate is no exception. I have built a reputation by being focused on my clients' goals, being a tenacious and creative problem-solver, and a patient and expert negotiator. My clients and I form a strong partnership built on trust and communication, and it's always a positive and fun experience, regardless of the obstacles presented.

I thank my clients for their continued trust and confidence, and the honor of this award.

Pat Cardozo

Tenacious • Positive • Client Focused

- Delighted to be honored again by my clients!
- Reputation for integrity, customer care and results
- Proven track record with 100% client satisfaction
- Expert buyer and seller representation
- Creating clients for life, one customer at a time

270 Amity Road • Woodbridge, CT 06525
Office: 203-392-3357 • Cell: 203-824-2177
patcardozo@snet.net • www.patcardozo.com

Left to right: **Three-year winner Paula Baraket** and **Heather Dacey**

CT Town and Shore Partners

Together … We'll Make It Happen

- Unparalled service and support
- 90% of sales from past clients/referrals
- Representing homebuyers and sellers
- Serving the shoreline and greater New Haven County
- Building relationships through trust and dedication

89 Whitfield Street • Guilford, CT 06437
Paula: 203-434-1868 • Heather: 203-314-1301
cttownandshorepartners@pagetaft.com • www.pagetaft.com/cttown

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Darlene M. Eaton

Weichert Regional

236 Boston Post Rd.
Orange, CT 06477
Cell: 203-671-3012
Office: 203-795-2392
Darlenemeaton@gmail.com
DarleneEaton.com

Relationships Matter

- New Haven County, shoreline, Yale community
- Real estate and relocation consultant
- Innovative marketing techniques
- Client confidentiality
- Selling? Ask about your home makeover!

Choosing the right Realtor can make all the difference. Darlene understands listening to the client's wants and requirements, being honest and candid about current market conditions, providing regional market knowledge, guidance with pricing, condition of property, inspections, mortgage as well as negotiating skills are key in any real estate transaction. Thank you to my clients. I am truly honored to receive this award.

Two-year winner David Genovali and **four-year winner Lisa Genovali**

David and Lisa Genovali

RE/MAX Valley Shore — Genovali Realty

- 34-plus years of experience on the shoreline
- One of the area's top real estate professionals
- Unparalleled real estate service
- Residential, new construction, land sales
- "Don't make a move without us!"

103 Main Street • Old Saybrook, CT 06475
David: 860-227-7714 • Lisa: 860-510-3293
genovali.com

Linda Johnson

RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

75 Brace Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Cell: 860-543-0909
Office: 860-882-0403
LindaJ@remax-premier-ct.com
LindaJohnsonSells.net

Exceeding Expectations Since 1982

- 95% of my business is repeat clients or referrals
- Vision, energy and the drive to get it done
- Professional photography and staging consult included
- Expert prelisting renovation project management
- Skilled negotiation and creative problem-solving

"Linda is an extraordinary Realtor who has so much to offer above and beyond the usual. Not only has she put together an incredible team of home improvement pros, but she has a clear vision of the possibilities and a broad range of knowledge and expertise in the areas needed to highlight and elicit the beauty of a home. Our old house in very bad shape was transformed! It sold in two days at a profit!" — Barbara McGrath

Robin Keegan

752 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
Cell: 203-500-2212
Phone: 203-245-4700, Ext.180
robin@ShorelineHomesCT.com
www.ShorelineHomesCT.com

Shoreline Homes Team …

- Professionally serves you
- Communicates with you
- Keeps up to date on the market for you
- Works competitively for you
- Strives diligently to meet your goals

As team leader of Shoreline Homes Team, Robin and her team dedicate themselves daily to meet the expectations and needs of their clients. It takes many things to be successful in real estate — talent, knowledge, experience, communication, networks, marketing and resources. Shoreline Homes Team is uniquely qualified to represent your interests, whether buying or selling. Choose Shoreline Homes Team for your next move.

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Laureen Kennedy

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

680 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Office: 203-272-1633, Ext. 171
Cell: 203-671-1817
laureen.kennedy@cbmoves.com
www.laureenkennedy.com

- Residential Realtor since 2001
- Consistent top producer in the office
- CB International President's Circle
- Multiple award winner of GNHAR quarterly award
- CRS, ABR®, Relocation Specialist, e-Pro®, SRES

I love what I do! I have the privilege of helping people through some of the happiest times (and, unfortunately, some of the saddest times) of their lives. I have built my business on repeat and referral clients over the past 13 years. I am a people person and a problem-solver. Let me help you to buy or sell your home. I will take care of all the little details to make your move as stress-free as possible.

Dan Martin

2 Huntington St.
Shelton, CT 06484
Office: 203-929-6388
Cell: 203-218-1548
Daniel31Martin@aol.com
www.danmartin.listingbook.com

My Client's Success Is My Success

- The Best of the Best in CT for William Raveis
- More than 10 years of experience
- Consistent multimillion-dollar producer
- 90% of my business is repeat and referral
- A big thanks to all of my clients!

Being a Realtor means much more than buying and selling homes. My clients' needs, happiness and satisfaction are always my top priority. Eleven years' experience has granted me the ability to adapt and accommodate to ensure the smoothest of transactions during what can be a stressful time in my clients' lives. I always make it my mission to match the right home with the right owner.

Kathy Schmitt

470 Main St.
Ridgefield, CT 06877
Cell: 203-952-4996
Office: 203-403-4472
kschmitt@williampitt.com
kathyschmitt.williampitt.com

Partnering With Experience

- Consistent top producer, SRS, ABR® and SRES
- Full-time Realtor since 2002
- Professionally trained in negotiation
- Fortune 500 marketing and sales executive
- Certified Relocation Professional®

Choosing the right Realtor can save you thousands of dollars. Hiring a trained, experienced real estate professional like myself can make all the difference. I bring my marketing expertise, business acumen and market knowledge to every transaction to successfully negotiate the best terms for my clients. I want to thank my clients for selecting me to be a Five Star Professional recipient! Serving: Ridgefield, Redding, Wilton, Weston, Danbury, Brookfield, Bethel, New Fairfield and Newtown.

Each office is independently owned and operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Left to right: **Two-year winner Pamela Sawicki-Beaudoin** and **four-year winner Lisa Golebiewski**

Realty Associates

Experience Makes the Difference

- Broker/owners with more than 35 years of combined experience
- Experienced and knowledgeable local team of agents
- High ethical standards, superior negotiating skills
- Reputation for integrity, knowledge and dedication
- Serving Meriden, Wallingford, Durham and surrounding areas

Meriden, CT 06450 • Durham, CT 06422
Pamela: 203-623-9959 • Lisa: 203-631-7912
viewCThomes.com

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Left to right: **Jay M. Adams** and **2014 winner Sherri A. Steeneck**

Sherri A. Steeneck

Thank You for Your Confidence!

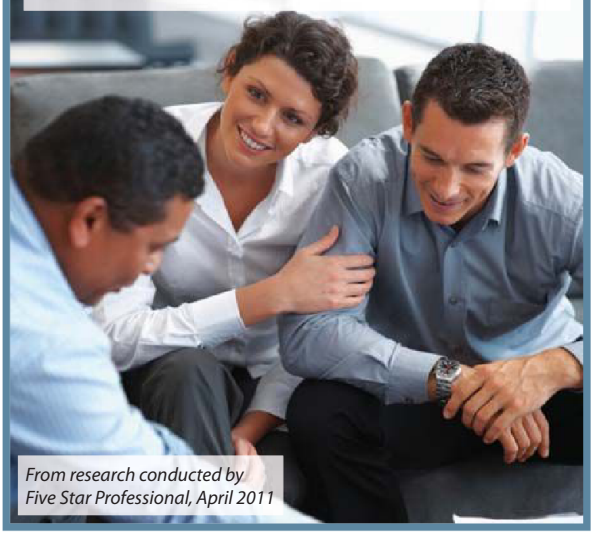
- 2014 marks Sherri's 25th year in real estate!
- 2014: Sherri and Jay became business partners!
- Our goal: customer service and satisfaction!
- Our mission: to help people meet their needs and move forward in their life's journey.

The Higgins Group

1499 Post Road • Fairfield, CT 06824
Sherri: 203-395-2737 • Jay: 203-414-0316
Sherri@Steeneck.net

Top five questions that real estate agents want you to answer:

1. What are your goals?
2. What price range are you comfortable with?
3. Are you pre-qualified?
4. What is your timeframe?
5. If we find the right property, are you prepared to purchase it today?



From research conducted by Five Star Professional, April 2011

> "Clients don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."
>
> *— Five Star award winner*

Suzanne Marek Armstrong
COLDWELL BANKER
191 Mason St.
Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203-253-3952
suzyarm@aol.com

Suzanne was ranked in the top 3 percent in 2013 for all Coldwell Banker agents in Connecticut and Westchester County. This is her fourth year receiving the Five Star Professional Real Estate Agent award, which is featured in *Connecticut* magazine. She is a member of the Elite Referral Network and the The Sterling Society. Suzanne has 13 years of interior design experience. She also speaks French and Spanish. Visit suzannearmstrong.com for more information.

Rosalie Averill
Rupwani Associates Real Estate
Klarides Village – 221 Bank St.
Seymour, CT 06483
Office: 203-888-1380, Ext. 220
rrnba@aol.com
www.RupwaniAssociates.com

Treating sellers and buyers with respect for 35 years, I am ready to help with your real estate needs. Named Realtor of the Year three times by the Valley Association of Realtors, I am confident I can get the job done successfully. For all your real estate needs, the "Naugatuck Valley" is my expertise!

Jessica Beganski
William Raveis
200 W Main St.
Avon, CT 06001
Cell: 860-965-5010
jessica.beganski@raveis.com
www.westhartford homesfinder.com

I offer real estate buyers and sellers in the West Hartford area a decade of marketplace knowledge, responsive service, marketing expertise, up-to-date technology and information, so they can make the best decisions about buying or selling their real estate.

FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Linda Bohne

Keller Williams Realty
821 N Main St. Ext.
Wallingford, CT 06492
Phone: 203-715-5518
linda_bohne@yahoo.com
www.lindabohne.com

Linda puts her passion for real estate to work for you. With more than 10 years of experience, she aims to provide the very best service to each and every client. Linda attributes her success to her integrity, in-depth market knowledge and negotiation, and marketing-savvy skills.

Nancy Dansereau

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
752 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
Cell: 860-301-5148
nancy.dansereau@cbmoves.com
www.ctmidshore.com

Communication, knowledge and well-executed closings are the keys to my success! My clients are the best and reach out to me repeatedly, knowing I take their decision to buy and sell seriously! They deserve superior service. It is with honor that I accept this award! Thank you!

Kim Fetera

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
24 Washington Ave.
North Haven, CT 06473
Office: 203-654-2910
Cell: 203-430-5660
kim.fetera@cbmoves.com
www.kimfetera.com

I enjoy building relationships with my clients. I am privileged to have helped so many families move in and out of Connecticut, either by marketing their most valuable asset or finding a new place to call home. I specialize in residential sales and relocation services. Thank you to my clients for their continued trust and support.

Marilyn Jacobs

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
86 Halls Rd.
Old Lyme, CT 06371
Phone: 860-434-8600
Cell: 860-304-6264
Marilyn.Jacobs@CBMoves.com
MarilynJacobs.net

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one who was instrumental in my receiving this prestigious award. Your confidence and loyalty throughout the years are sincerely appreciated. I feel privileged to have been able to work with you, and I'm honored to be given this recognition. No doubt about it — the client/Realtor relationship is a team effort, and great partnerships make successful transactions and successful agents … many, many thanks!

"Work with a professional who takes the time to understand your unique situation."

— Five Star award winner

Paul Jensen

COLDWELL BANKER FRASCATORE REALTY
5 Commerce Dr.
Shelton, CT 06484
Direct: 203-331-3302
Office: 203-929-5279, Ext. 5250
TrustPaul@coldwellbanker.com
BuySellCtHomes.com

Thank you again to all my clients who I have had the privilege to serve and who have supported me for the past 37 years. It is truly gratifying to have one's work recognized as being top in their profession. I cherish every opportunity to help my clients achieve their real estate goals.

Nancy Lydell

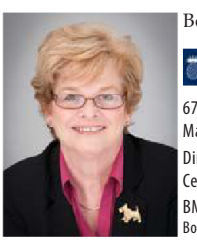
Calcagni Real Estate
330 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-272-1822, Ext. 349
nancy_lydell@calcagni.com

It is my way of life to be honest and caring to others, and I remain steadfast to my values and integrity as a professional. I feel that when you treat people this way the reward comes in the form of friendships that last a lifetime. Thank you to my clients who honored me with this prestigious award.

Karen Martin

CENTURY 21 Connecticut Realty Associates
27 Main St.
Hebron, CT 06248
Direct: 860-337-7823
Cell: 860-559-8903
KarenMartinHomes@aol.com

I am honored to receive this prestigious award. As a Realtor for 29 years, my career integrates my passion for helping people and serving the needs of buyers and sellers throughout Connecticut. Providing quality service is my priority. To my clients, *a heartfelt thank you for this recognition.*



Bonnie McManamy

William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
670 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
Direct: 203-738-0218
Cell: 203-915-9196
BMcManamy@wpsir.com
BonnieMcManamy.WPSIR.com

Servicing the shoreline, Bonnie sells water area, new construction and resale homes in Madison, Guilford, Killingworth and Clinton. An incredible testimony to her expertise and her service is that every year more than 90 percent of her business is a result of repeat clients and personal referrals.

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Matthew Miale
Keller Williams Realty
29 S Main St.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860-416-1815
matthewmiale@kw.com
mmiale.kwhomesct.com

2013 was a banner year for me and my team, and we have nothing but thanks to give to our fantastic customers who have been our greatest advocates. Providing a service that takes a consultative and education-based approach to the business is the key to taking the pushiness out of the sale, and giving our customers the confidence to make the best decisions they can in order to get the best result.

Wendye Pardue
WILLIAM RAVEIS
Lower Fairfield County,
CT 06853
Cell: 203-247-7927
Office: 203-845-9696
wendyepardue@gmail.com

My goal for my clients is a smooth, well-informed and fun process all the way to the closing table. I continually strive to provide excellence in service and professionalism. My clients' comments and testimonials say it best. Check out what they are saying on my profile at www.raveis.com.

Barbara Puorro
Carbutti & Co.
Realtors
72 S Main St.
Wallingford, CT 06492
Phone: 860-558-9740
barbara@carbutti.com

With more than 15 years of real estate experience, Barbara takes her commitment to her clients very seriously whether they are buying or selling. It is her goal to match them with the ideal home for the life they want to live. She functions as a sounding board and candid advisor who listens thoughtfully, responds directly and identifies realistic goals. She then pursues them with a customized plan of action.

Sandra Reiners
sandra REINERS
William Raveis Real Estate
21 Whitfield St.
Guilford, CT 06437
Cell: 203-494-7368
sandra.reiners@raveis.com
SandraReiners.com

Analytical and negotiating skills from 30 years in finance are brought to bear for my clients, whether buyers or sellers. I provide them with facts and interpretations enabling them to make the smartest possible decisions concerning their single largest investment — their home.

"Make sure you're dealing with someone who is knowledgeable and ethical."

— Five Star award winner

Angela Ruel
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
New England Properties
15A Main St.
Essex, CT 06426
Phone: 860-575-0754
Phone: 860-767-2133
aruelhomes@live.com
aruel@bhhsne.com

For the fourth time, I am so proud to receive to the Five Star Real Estate Agent award! Honesty, trust and experience are key when navigating my clients through this ever-changing market.

Bill Sage
COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
100 Main St.
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
Phone: 860-227-1905
Bill.Sage@cbmoves.com
www.billsage.net

Recognized as one of the top agents on the Connecticut shoreline, Bill has a long record of exemplary customer service, extensive local knowledge and a proven track record. He enjoys helping clients find or sell homes in all shoreline towns.

Kathryn Schargus
RE/MAX ALLIANCE
500 Bridge St.
Groton, CT 06340
Cell: 860-608-6743
Office: 860-445-4663, Ext. 208
kschargus@aol.com
www.homesofct.com

Thank you to all of my clients for selecting me for this prestigious award.

I will continue to provide professional service, knowledge of the market and, most importantly, an understanding of your needs as a buyer or seller. Throughout my career, the key to my success has been you, my client.

My commitment is your success!

Josephine Simko
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | New England Properties
67 Federal Rd.
Brookfield, CT 06804
Phone: 203-731-188
josimko@bhhsne.com
www.WesternCTHomes.com

I offer personal attention and professional representation. Whether buying, selling or investing, I will help make the pieces of every real estate transaction fit so you can reach your goal. My certifications include: Certified Distressed Property Expert, Accredited Buyer's Representative and Senior Real Estate Specialist.

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Suzanne Walsh
William Raveis Real Estate
125 La Salle Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Cell: 860-306-1927
Phone: 860-521-4311
Suzanne.Walsh@raveis.com

University of Connecticut graduate from the school of business with more than 20 years of real estate experience. Specializing in West Hartford, Farmington Valley and shoreline homes for buyers and sellers. One of the top agents with William Raveis and Chairman's Elite Circle of Connecticut. Thank you for all your support!

Dianne Weinstock
RR The Riverside Realty Group
1254 Post Rd. E
Westport, CT 06880
Phone: 203-858-3614
dianneweinstock@earthlink.net
www.dianneweinstock.com

I am happy to say that my 25 years in real estate continue to be fun and successful because of my wonderful clients. It is rewarding to be their friend, their real estate confidant and to offer 24/7 concierge service. My goal is to make each transaction as smooth as possible.

Bev Welch
Calcagni Real Estate
330 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Office: 203-272-1821, Ext. 341
Phone: 203-605-2979
beverly_welch@calcagni.com
www.calcagni.com

As a career real estate professional of more than 30 years, I value the importance of establishing a personal and trusting relationship with clients. I enjoy the challenge of understanding the market and ensuring each client's goals and objectives have been met.

Susan Arsenault
William Raveis Real Estate
860-305-9697
Susan.Arsenault@Raveis.Com
SusanArsenault.Com
Advice and Service With Results

Joe Cannizzaro
RE/MAX Right Choice
203-449-8108
Joecanndo@sbcglobal.net
JoeCannDo.com
Joe Cann Do

Cheryl Auerbach
Berkshire Hathaway NE Properties
860-235-9099
CherylAuerbach@bhhsNE.com
CherylAuerbach.bhhsNEproperties.com
SE Conn. Shoreline, Fine Homes and Relocation

Beth Cantor
Calcagni Real Estate
203-927-6244
Beth_Cantor@Calcagni.com
www.calcagni.com/bethcantor
CRS, GRI, Realtor, SRES

William Bonos
Coldwell Banker-Orange, CT
203-606-8175
William.Bonos@CBMoves.com
WilliamBonos.Com
Honored to Be a Four-Year Recipient!

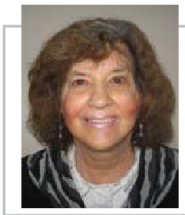
Linda Conchado
Keller Williams Realty
203-980-0549
LindaConchado@gmail.com
www.LindaConchado.com
My Priorities Are Simple … They're Yours!

JoAnn L. Bredenberg
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
203-232-9452
joann.bredenberg@cbmoves.com
www.joannbredenberg.com
You Can Count on Me; How May I Help You?

Donna L. Connolly
Anne Miller Real Estate
860-916-4788
donna@annemillerrealestate.com
www.facebook.com/DonnaConnollyRE
Simply the Best

Five Star Real Estate Agents

Roseann Conti
Coldwell Banker Premiere Real Estate
860-628-2212
roseann.conti@coldwellbanker.com
Relationships — Cornerstone of My Business



Jane Galla
Coldwell Banker
203-736-3944
janie562@sbcglovabal.net
Real Estate Agent for More Than 35 Years

Jeffrey Craw
William Raveis Realty
203-218-3600
crawj@raveisre.com
www.raveis.com/jeffreycraw
Exceptional Properties Specialist

John Gaudioso
Gaudioso, Realtors
203-469-5755, Voicemail 10
john.gaudioso@snet.net
Gaudiosorealtors.com
Five Star Real Estate Agent Since 2011

Tom Cristofano
Coldwell Banker
203-804-4074
tom.cristofano@cbmoves.com
www.tomcristofano.com
Knowledge. Experience. Integrity.

Robin Gebrian
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
860-985-7807
robingebrian@hotmail.com
robingebrianhomes.com
"A Joy to Work With"

> "Keep up with market conditions, so you are always knowledgeable."
>
> *— Five Star award winner*

Nancy M. Dolan
Luxury Real Estate
203-454-6700
nancydolan101@yahoo.com
www.fingelly.com
34 Years of Experience

Melissa Giangrasso
Realty World – Signature Properties
860-912-7313
GiangrassoM@PropertiesCT.com
www.PropertiesCT.com
The Right Agent Makes All the Difference

Ana I. Festa
eXp Realty of CT, LLC
860-578-2623
ana@anafesta.net
www.AnaFesta.net
Helping You Make the Right Move!

Peggy Gregan
ERA Blanchard & Rossetto, Inc.
860-836-0496
eragregan@aol.com
www.PeggyDidItAgain.com
Broker, Notary, Accredited Buyer's Representative

Katie French
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
860-977-3802
katie.french@cbmoves.com
katie-french.com
Real Estate Professional

Susan Hawley
Coldwell Banker Residential
203-913-4443
Susan.Hawley@CBmoves.com
SusanHawley.net
Your Trusted Real Estate Adviser

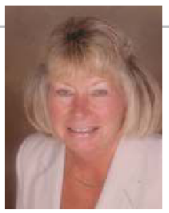
Five Star Real Estate Agents

Jan Hlywa
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
203-982-4636
Jan.Hlywa@CBMoves.com
www.jan-Hlywa.com
Committed • Dedicated • Hardworking

Linda C. King
Berkshire Hathaway HSNE Properties
860-202-KING (5464)
lking@bhhsne.com
lindaking.bhhsneproperties.com
Professional • Accessible • Reliable

Debbie Huscher
William Raveis
860-918-4580
dhuscher@comcast.net
www.debbiehuscher.com
Recognized. Respected. Recommended.

Sandra Laliberte
Weichert, Realtors/Briotti Group
860-309-6601
sandylrealtor@yahoo.com
Always Working for You



Denise Iannucci
Coldwell Banker Residential Broker
203-526-7653
denise.iannucci@cbmoves.com
www.deniseiannucci.com
Advice and Service With Results!

Robert E. Lauer
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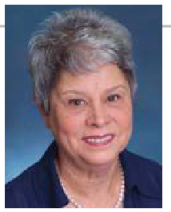

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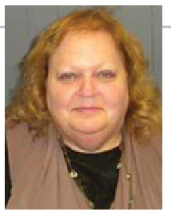

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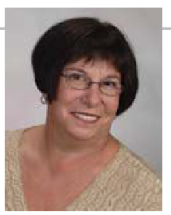

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Five Star Professional surveyed more than 24,300 Connecticut homeowners. The final list of 2014 Connecticut Five Star Mortgage Professionals is a select group, representing less than 3 percent of mortgage professionals in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarprofessional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Paul Aube · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Cynthia Bahl · Cornerstone Mortgage *Page 28*

Mary Beth Bain · Green Tree Originations

Jennifer Barone · Mortgage Master

Mark Barrere · Mortgage Master

Christopher Bartlett · Primary Residential Mortgage

Gail Bartoli · Liberty Bank *Page 28*

Lisa Basile · Farmington Bank

Kevin Belmonte · Simsbury Bank

Matthew Biggins · Connecticut Home Mortgage

David Bigley, Sr. · Main Street Mortgage

Brian Boyaji · People's United Bank

Jacquelyn Boyden · Liberty Bank *Page 28*

Debra Boyle · PNC Mortgage

Robert Bradley · Bank of England New England Alliance Mortgage

Richard Breed · Sovereign Bank *Page 28*

James Bremm · Atlantic Residential Mortgage

Cara Britton · CT Liberty Mortgage

Linda Brule · Putnam Bank

Michael Buckley · Webster Bank

Carl Bulgini · Fenwick Mortgage

David Bunk · Franklin American Mortgage Company

Spring Burke · Salisbury Bank & Trust Company *Page 27*

Ronald Capozziello · People's United Bank

Kevin Carse · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Kristopher Cedillo · Atlantic Home Loans *Page 29*

Deirdre Church · Norcom Mortgage

David Colan · Chase Bank

Sue Colella · McCue Mortgage

Jarret Coleman · Guaranteed Rate

Colleen Comeau · William Raveis Mortgage

Paul Constantinou · iServe Residential Lending

Kathi Corrigan · Liberty Bank *Page 29*

Brian Coughlin · People's United Bank *Page 29*

Brian Coughlin · Welcome Home Mortgage

Christopher Crowne · Right Trac Financial Group

Norma Cruz-Mathis · Webster Bank

Kenneth Csehak · Mortgage Master

Gary Cutler · Global Unity Mortgage *Page 26*

Kimberly Cyr · First Niagara Bank

Scott Dana · NE Moves Mortgage

Wendy Daube-Hunt · Homestead Funding Corporation

Michael Daversa · Atlantic Residential Mortgage

Ron Delaney · Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Lori Demma · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Anthony Devita · Luxury Mortgage Coporation

Michael Diot · Guaranty Federal

Robert DiRusso · Boulevard Bank

Elaine Dreher · People's United Bank

Jim Earl · Mortgage Master

Iliad Estrada · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Robert Filippone · Citibank

Sylvie Fillion · NE Moves Mortgage

Louise Fontaine · Mortgage Master

Edward Fournier · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Robert Frazee · Rockville Bank

Perry Gaa · CitiMortgage

Eric Gadarowski · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Timothy Galu · Luxury Mortgage Coporation

Peter Ganci · Savings Institute Bank & Trust

David Garofalo · Prospect Mortgage

Ann Gauthier · Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Steven Geryk · State Finance Company

Amy Gildea · People's United Bank

Beth Glynn · Chelsea Groton Bank

Manny Gomes · Norcom Mortgage

Darlene Gordon · Bank of America

Robert Grace · Webster Bank

Mary Lou Gramesty · RBS Citizens, National Association *Page 27*

Belinda Greco · Webster Bank

Steven Greenberg · Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan

John Greer · William Raveis Mortgage

Lori Grillo · Farmington Bank

John Grosso · William Raveis Mortgage

Michele Grull · Savings Bank of Danbury

Stephen Habetz · Stamford Mortgage Company

Greg Hall · Norcom Mortgage *Page 29*

Barbara Hallwood · NE Moves Mortgage

Christian Harrison · First World Mortgage Corporation

William Hart · Newtown Savings Bank

Terry Hastings · Hamilton Ladd Home Loans *Page 27*

Mark Hawkins · William Raveis Mortgage

Melissa Hayes · CT Liberty Mortgage

Jeffrey Heidtmann · Primary Residential Mortgage *Page 29*

Paul Hirschauer · Guaranteed Rate

John Hodgkins · Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation *Page 27*

Douglas Hoffman · Mortgage Consultants of America

Bob Hoffmann · Welcome Home Mortgage

Doreen Holtman · Torrington Savings Bank

Raymond Jalbert · Real Estate Mortgage Network

Penn Johnson · Stamford Mortgage Company

Henry Karas · Windsor Mortgage

Brian Kaskel · Connecticut Home Mortgage

Cathy Kehoe · McCue Mortgage

Jason Kilduff · Ward Kilduff Mortgage

Ronald Klein · Mortgage Master

Frank Kolb · Raveis Mortgage

Ann Kramer · Rockville Bank

Bill Krasnor · Strategy Mortgage

Cliff Kruger · People's United Bank

Heath Ladona · Mortgage Master

Ann L'Altrella · L'Altrella Lending Group

Daniel L'Altrella · L'Altrella Lending Group

John Lambo · Chase

Cindy Lang · Mortgage Master

David Layne · People's United Bank

Annette Leigh · Bank of America

Lizabeth Leone · Seasons Federal Credit Union

Rebecca Lollie · Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Lisa Long · William Raveis Mortgage *Page 29*

John Luddy · Reverse Mortgages

Kevin Luddy · BCI Financial

Thomas Lutz · Newtown Savings Bank

Denise Magario · Dime Bank

William Man · Atlantic Residential Mortgage

Gary Margelot · Webster Bank

Annie Mariano · Darien Rowayton Bank *Page 28*

Paul Martin · Allied Funding Group

Timothy Martin · NE Moves Mortgage

Louis Martocchio · Martocchio & Oliveira

Charles Masse · Norcom Mortgage Force

Donald McCormack · Strategy Mortgage

Jay McGorty · JTM Financial Services

Sharon McHugh · Savings Institute Bank & Trust

Kevin McMahon · Fairfield County Bank

Patrick McRedmond · Fairfield County Bank

Sharon Mendelsohn · Union Savings Bank

Five Star Mortgage Professionals

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Paula Mercier · Welcome Home Mortgage
Ruth Michalski · WestStar Mortgage
Deborah Miller · Liberty Bank *Page 29*
Arthur Miller, Jr. · Gladewater National Bank
Brad Moore · First World Mortgage Corporation
Nancy Morgan · William Raveis Mortgage
Lisa Moriello · Mortgage Master
Suzanne Morin · Farmington Bank
Terry Moy · Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Maria Mozzicato · Norcom Mortgage
Marc Nathan · Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation *Page 28*
Ralph Negri · Mortgage Master
Deb O'Brien · PrimeLending
Lana Ochs · Residential Mortgage Services
Anne L. Ogden · Chelsea Groton Bank
Skart Paul · Primary Residential Mortgage
Zack Pearson · Ward Kilduff Mortgage
Brian Pelletier · First Niagara Bank
Tracey Perry · Liberty Bank *Page 29*
Colleen Polson · Mortgage Master
Jerry Polzella · Liberty Bank *Page 29*
Clementina Rafael · People's United Bank
Joel Ralph · Torrington Savings Bank
Greg Reichman · People's United Bank
Douglas Rick · Connecticut Home Mortgage
Jorge Rivera · William Raveis Mortgage
Patricia Rodgers-Longo · Chelsea Groton Bank
Karen Roman · Dime Bank
Dave Rose · Prospect Mortgage
Dan Rosenfeld · Mortgage Master
Todd Ryder · Connecticut Home Mortgage
Jude Satalino · McCue Mortgage
Harry Sessa · Wells Fargo *Page 29*
Tim Sickinger · Atlantic Residential Mortgage
Tracey Smith · Green Tree
Aline Soulor · Chelsea Groton Bank
Mona Staaf-Gunther · Salisbury Bank & Trust Company *Page 28*
Dave Stambone · Hamilton Ladd Home Loans
Todd Stampp · Prysma Lending Group
Kathleen Standish · Homestead Funding Corporation
Linda Streett · First World Mortgage Corporation
Randy Sturm · NE Moves Mortgage
Dan Sullivan · American Eagle Federal Credit Union
Brian Taylor · New England Home Mortgage
Natale Terranova · Residential Mortgage Services *Page 28*
Terry Terzakis · Atlantic Home Loans *Page 28*
Steven Tessler · William Raveis
Mark Therriault · William Raveis Mortgage
Elizabeth Titus · Savings Institute Bank & Trust
Jay Tolisano · Atlantic Home Loans
Trish Townsend · The Milford Bank *Page 29*
Karen Tracy · Newtown Savings Bank
Keith Turner · McCue Mortgage
Richard Turner · Chelsea Groton Bank
Lynne Valente · Norcom Mortgage
Peter Ventriglia · Landmark Financial Group
Danielle Vincent · The McCue Mortgage Company
Feliks Viner · First World Mortgage Corporation
Anita Visconti · PNC Mortgage
Maria Vodola · McCue Mortgage
Donna Werkhoven · McCue Mortgage
Jeffrey Whitlock · William Raveis Mortgage
Jonathan Whitney · Mortgage Master
Beth Williams · Mortgage Master
Bryan Williams · PrimeLending
Faith Wilson · Liberty Bank *Page 29*
Alex Wisz · American Eagle Federal Credit Union *Page 29*
Rose Yardito · Webster Bank
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2014 winner Gary Cutler, Broker/Owner

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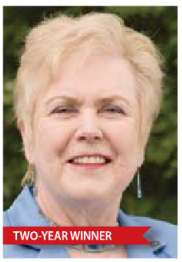

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NMLS 568815

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Liberty Bank
860-767-7890
kcorrigan@liberty-bank.com
www.liberty-bank.com/kcorrigan
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gpolzella@liberty-bank.com
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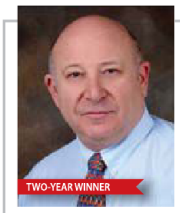

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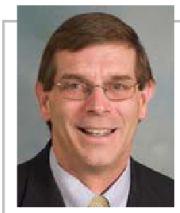

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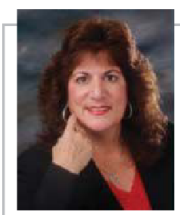

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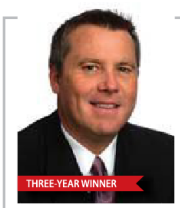

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Five Star Professional surveyed more than 24,300 Connecticut homeowners. The final list of 2014 Connecticut Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professionals is a select group, representing less than 3 percent of insurance professionals in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarprofessional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Alphonsus Aguh · Allstate/The Aguh Agency

Donald Anderson · The Anderson Insurance Agency

Carl Angelovic · Joel G. Angelovic Insurance Agency

Joel Angelovic · Nationwide

Thomas Ayres · The Russell Agency

David Bauer · Bearingstar Insurance

Andrew Borner · Olde Liberty Insurance

Caitlin Buettel · Liberty Mutual

Rosemary Butler · State Farm

Dina Calabrese · Foster Insurance

Carlo Carlozzi, Jr. · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Douglas Carlson · Carlson & Carlson

Sean Carroll · Merit Insurance

Richard Coba · Amity Insurance & Financial Services

Susan Colletti · Housatonic Valley Insurance Agency

Yale Cooke · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Evan Cooper · Bearingstar Insurance

Jennifer Crowley · Liberty Mutual Insurance *Page 31*

Paul D'Addabbo · Insurance Associates

Geoffrey D'Alessandro · Bearingstar Insurance

Angel De Los Santos, Jr. · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Mark DeGenaro · The DeGenaro Agency

Nicholas Deni · The Jarrett Agency

Eleni Despoteris · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Norma Dinsdale · Archambault Insurance Associates

Jeffrey Dolin · The Dolin Insurance Center

David Drescher · Drescher Insurance Agency

Michael Drzata · Wentworth DeAngelis & Kaufman Insurance

Diane Eger · Orange Insurance Center

Kimberly Fitzgerald · Montagno Insurance Agency *Page 31*

Dawn Fox · Chittenden Group

Peter Gallo · Allstate

Kim Garthwait · Connecticut Insurance Exchange

Rachel Gaudet · United Insurance Group

Daniel Goldfarb · Anderson-Meyer Insurance

David Gonzalez · Allstate

James A. Goodman · Goodman Insurance

Tim Greer · Tim Greer Insurance Agency *Page 31*

Derek Gromko · State Farm Insurance

Kristin Guglielmo · Penny-Hanley & Howley Insurance Agency

Joan Guillette · Liberty Mutual

Kevin Hanlon · Independent Insurance Center *Page 31*

Jonathan Hudson · Liberty Mutual

Wally Irish · W.J. Irish Insurance Agency *Page 31*

Jody Jordan · Jody Jordan State Farm Insurance

Debra Kane · Sava Insurance

Brian Kelly · Bouvier Insurance

Briea Korzep · Liberty Mutual Insurance

Paul Korzep · Korzep Insurance Agency

Thomas Lally · Allstate

Matthew LaMarre · Connecticut Insurance Exchange

Lauren LaTorre-Osterling · State Farm Insurance

Thomas Leonard · All Connecticut Insurance Brokers

Tammy Liscomb · Liberty Mutual Insurance *Page 31*

Linda Lucier · Archambault Insurance Associates

Amy Lukaszewski · Tracy-Driscoll & Company

Peter Lupoli · Allstate

Stephanie Lupoli · Allstate

Christopher J. Lyons · Lyons & Wraight Insurance

Brad Manning · The Manning Agency

Augustus Marchetti · Marchetti Brown & Bishop

Eric Matunas · Standard Insurance Agency

Adam Miller · Adam Miller Agency

Lysa Molnar · Archambault Insurance Associates

Miguel Ortiz · AAA Insurance

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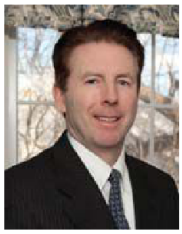
— Five Star award winner



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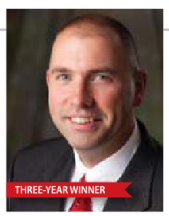

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(above) A boy marching in a street protest in Daraa, Syria, holds a sign thanking Dylan for his songs in support of the revolution. *(right)* A stamp issued by the Syrian Revolution to commemorate the song "Weary World."

| blood like fire |

CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 35**

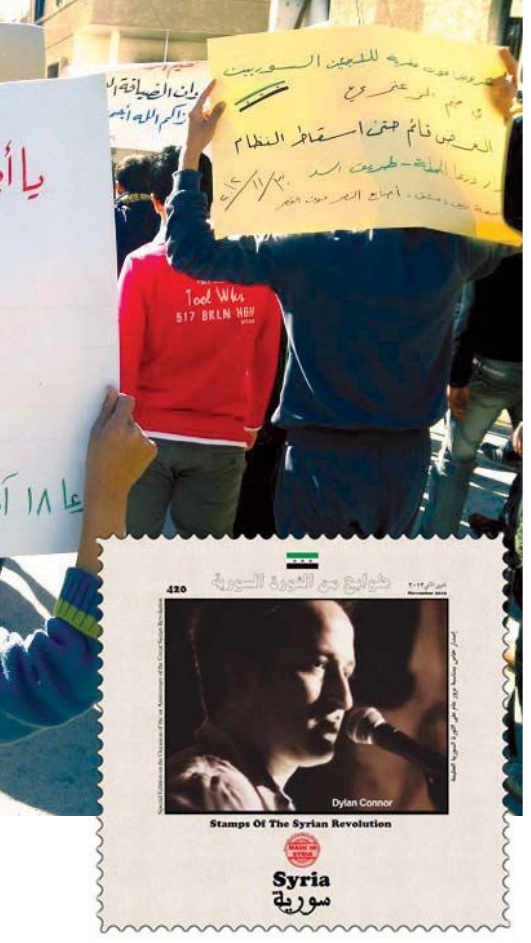
into a family of peaceful protesters, activists and dissidents bent on seeing the Syrian regime fall. Reem has close family members and friends who are still involved with nonviolent activism inside the country. Her cousin Zaidoun al-Zouabi, whom Dylan calls his "muse" and dedicates the song "Syria Healer" to, reported on the ground for CNN and was imprisoned by the regime twice, held in solitary confinement for months in a cell so small he couldn't even lie down.

"I think actually the regime focuses on that kind of activism, because they really don't want the revolution to come across like it's all these intellectuals who are asking for freedom," says Reem. "All the lawyers and intellectuals and doctors and professors go to jail because those are the people they're really afraid of."

While Reem first thought it unsafe to return home because of her family's role in the resistance, her husband has now made a prospective trip even more dangerous. Dylan has become something of an underground celebrity in the country, old friends of Reem's telling her to listen to his music, unaware that the two are married.

"I can't go back home because of my own views and my family history with activism, but now I can't even go back home because of him," she says with pride. "They probably know who he is, have his name at all the borders."

THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR IS NOT BLACK-AND-WHITE, nor is it plainly good versus evil. Rather, what started as citizens speaking out for basic human freedoms has turned into a proxy war for sides so splintered and fragmented that it



is, indeed, hard to make out a light at the end of the tunnel, easy for one who cares so much to feel like he's drowning.

"The one thing that most people don't understand is that Syria is the Brooklyn of the Middle East. It has all sorts of Christian sects, it has a whole variety of Shiite sects," says Marc Ginsberg, a former U.S. ambassador to Morocco and White House Middle East adviser. "Every ethnic group and every clan has its own militia. The country is completely pockmarked by different battle lines."

This conflict in Syria is one of regimes and rebels, Sunnis and Shiites, Islamists and secularists, despots and democrats. The United States, Russia, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda (among others) all have deep-rooted interests in what happens in the country. And meanwhile, amidst the ancient tribalism and geopolitics, innocent people are being murdered by the thousands.

Dylan Connor has toured the U.S. playing benefit shows for Syria. This summer he will go to Jordan and Turkey to teach displaced Syrian children to play music. All of the proceeds from his album are going to aid the war-torn country. He cannot stop the killing, but Syrians will continue to sing his songs in the streets, drawing inspiration for the cause of democracy. He wants to tell the stories that otherwise would be forgotten.

"That's what motivates me to sing these songs now," he says. "I can't sit still knowing what's happening."

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President's message

Change is in the air; winter is making its exit, and spring is beginning to return to Connecticut. Change is also coming to the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN) – specifically, to CPBN's NPR affiliate, WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio – and we at CPBN could not be more excited.

Beginning March 1, WNPR will be changing its weekend lineup to provide listeners with more of the programs they want, when they want them. Now, on Saturdays at 6 a.m., listeners can catch *On the Media*, the popular NPR program covering journalism, technology and First Amendment issues. *On the Media* will be followed by the Peabody Award-winning program *Studio 360*. Beginning at 7 a.m., *Studio 360* looks at the fascinating intersections between the arts, popular culture and everyday life. Plus, Saturdays at 4 p.m., don't miss *The Moth Radio Hour*, which features everyday people from across the nation sharing personal stories – stories that are sometimes sad, sometimes funny, but always heartfelt and entertaining.

Additionally, the program *Latino USA* will be making its WNPR debut. Hosted by Maria Hinojosa, *Latino USA* provides a focus on the news and culture of the nation's Latino community, and we are excited to be bringing it to WNPR. Tune in Sundays at 9 p.m. for *Latino USA*, and for the real "early birds" out there, the program will also air Sunday mornings at 6 a.m. Also, the NPR quiz show *Ask Me Another* will now air Sundays at 2 p.m. This educational (and hilarious) program is a new favorite of WNPR listeners, and now it can be enjoyed on Sunday afternoons! Finally, on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., *Essential Radio* returns to WNPR. *Essential Radio* is WNPR's showcase for specials, documentaries and local and original features. Each week brings a new topic and a new experience!

To view WNPR's complete new-and-improved lineup, see the WNPR Program Guide in this issue. Of course, our gratitude goes out to all of our members who give us the support we need to keep evolving and making our program offerings even better. Thank you!

Jerry Franklin
President and CEO, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network

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CPTV4U's Evening Program Schedule*

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6:00 p.m.	Foyle's War (Market Warriors airs March 2 at 6 p.m.)	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	PBS NewsHour	Saturday Night Mystery Programming (Inside Foyle's War airs March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Masterpiece Mystery!: Sherlock airs March 1, 8 and 15 at 9 p.m.)
6:30 p.m.							
7:00 p.m.	Antiques Roadshow	Wild Photo Adventures	Burt Wolf: Travels & Traditions	Smart Travels w. Rudy Maxa	All Things Connecticut	Connecticut's Cultural Treasures	
7:30 p.m.		Smart Travels w. Rudy Maxa	The Travel Detective	Rick Steves' Europe (Rick Steves' Festive Europe airs March 5 at 7:30 p.m.)	Just Seen It	Friday Night Science Programming (Nature: Ireland's Wild River airs March 7 at 8 p.m. followed by Super Brain w. Dr. Rudy Tanzi at 9:30 p.m.)	
8:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Music Programming (Gentleman's Rule in Concert airs March 2 at 8 p.m.; for more information, see page 104.)	Nature (The CPTV4U premiere of Nature: Ireland's Wild River airs March 3, 8-9:30 p.m.)	Broadway or Bust (Masterpiece Mystery!: Sherlock airs March 4, 8-10 p.m.)	Antiques Roadshow (Rick Steves' Italy: Cities of Dreams airs March 5, 8-10 p.m.)	Thursday Night Independent Films & Documentaries (Mister Rogers & Me airs March 6 at 8 p.m.)		
8:30 p.m.							
9:00 p.m.		Monday Night Nature & Travel Programming	Great Performances	Wednesday Night History Programming			
9:30 p.m.							
10:00 p.m.							
10:30 p.m.							
11:00 p.m.	Woodsongs	Charlie Rose	Charlie Rose	Charlie Rose	Charlie Rose	Charlie Rose	
11:30 p.m.							

** For CPTV4U's all-day listings, visit CPTV.org and click the "Schedules" tab.*

- Music Sundays
- Nature & Travel Mondays
- Drama Tuesdays
- History Wednesdays
- Independent Film & Documentary Thursdays
- Science Fridays
- Mystery Saturdays

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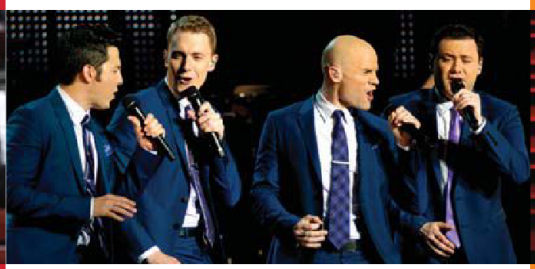
cptv

(Check local listings for channel information.)

Under the Streetlamp: Let the Good Times Roll
Thursday, March 6 at 8 p.m.

Made up of four former cast members of the Broadway musical *Jersey Boys*, Under the Streetlamp (pictured) brings the American Radio Songbook to a whole new level in their second PBS special. The show includes hits of the '50s, '60s and '70s, performed with the group's signature harmonies and dance moves.



Character Defined
Tuesday, March 25 at 10 p.m.

March 25 is designated as National Medal of Honor Day, and CPTV is commemorating this day with the premiere of *Character Defined*, a production of United Technologies Corporation (UTC) that reveals how the nation's true heroes, Medal of Honor recipients, are inspiring a new generation to serve.

cptv4u

Gentleman's Rule in Concert
Sunday, March 2 at 8 p.m.

See the 10-man a cappella group Gentleman's Rule (pictured) bring down the house in a performance taped at Chicagoland's prestigious Star Plaza Theatre. The group applies their unique harmonies to both timeless classics and contemporary hits, performing songs by everyone from the Manhattans to the Rolling Stones to Rascal Flatts.

Masterpiece Mystery!:
"Sherlock," Season 3
Saturdays, March 1, 8 & 15 at 9 p.m.

All three episodes of the newest season of "Sherlock" — including "The Empty Hearse," "The Sign of Three" and "His Last Vow" — come to CPTV4U Saturday nights at 9. Plus, a special encore of "The Empty Hearse" airs Tuesday, March 4 at 8 p.m.

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7:30	Wild Kratts		
8:00	Curious George	1:30	Caillou
8:30	The Cat in the Hat	2:00	Super Why!
9:00	Peg + Cat	2:30	Dinosaur Train
9:30	Dinosaur Train	3:00	Peg + Cat
10:00	Sesame Street	3:30	The Cat in the Hat
11:00	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	4:00	Curious George
		4:30	Arthur
11:30	Super Why!	5:00	Word Girl
Noon	Sid the Science	5:30	Wild Kratts

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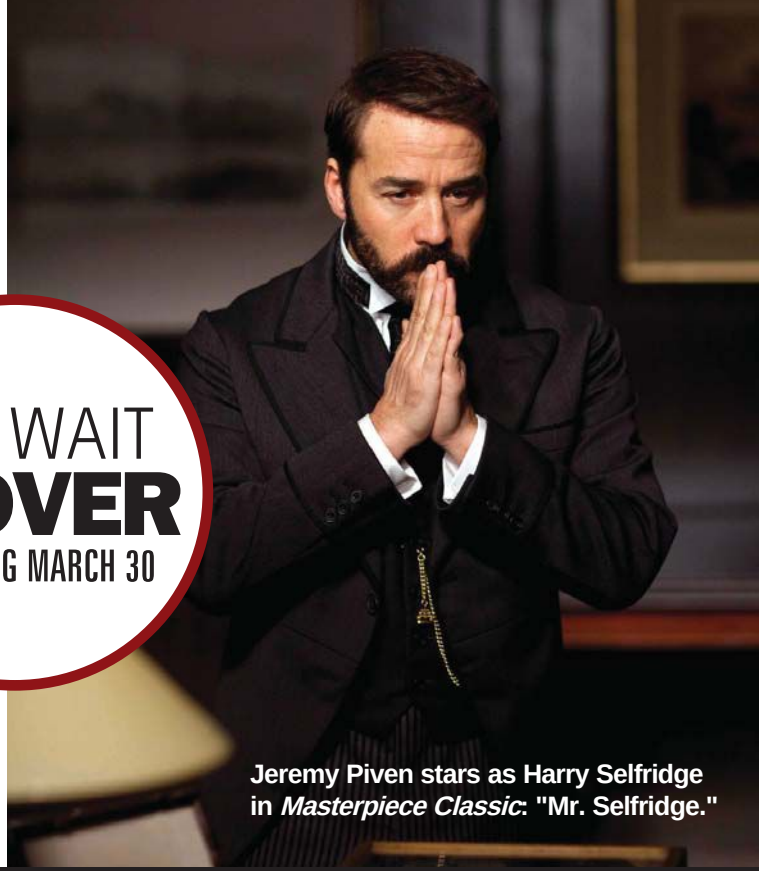
Jessica Raine returns as Jenny in Season 3 of *Call the Midwife*.



Jeremy Piven stars as Harry Selfridge in *Masterpiece Classic*: "Mr. Selfridge."

THE WAIT IS OVER

BEGINNING MARCH 30

Call the Midwife Returns to CPTV with Season 3 on Sundays at 8 p.m., Followed by *Masterpiece Classic:* "Mr. Selfridge," Season 2, on Sundays at 9 p.m.

The moving, intimate, funny and true-to-life series *Call the Midwife*, based on the best-selling memoirs of the late Jennifer Worth, returns to CPTV Sundays at 8 p.m. beginning March 30 with an all-new season of colorful stories of midwifery and families in London's East End.

Jenny (Jessica Raine), Trixie (Helen George), Chummy (Miranda Hart) and the rest of the beloved characters are back, doing the best they can to help the people of East London. But the year is 1959 – the eve of the Swinging Sixties – and the winds of change are sweeping through the country, forcing the residents of Nonnatus House to face some momentous changes of their own... not the least of which is their recent move to a *new* Nonnatus House.

As Season 3 progresses, the midwives and nuns settle into their new location and welcome two new additions: a young nun named Sister Winifred (Victoria Yeates, the BBC's *Holby City*) and a new nurse named Patsy (Emerald Fennell, *Anna Karenina*). Plus, Jenny's promotion creates some problems for her; Chummy makes a big decision; and the team must help some women who are in particularly difficult circumstances, including a prison inmate and a woman with agoraphobia.

Of course, there are also new romances to deal with and other exciting developments. Fans old and new won't want to miss a minute of the new season of this hit series!

Also on March 30, three-time Emmy Award-winner Jeremy Piven (*Entourage*) returns for a sumptuous new season of "Mr. Selfridge" on *Masterpiece Classic* as the man who brought seductive shopping to early 20th-century London. A co-production of ITV Studios and *Masterpiece*, Season 2 of "Mr. Selfridge" continues the drama surrounding the birth of Selfridge & Co., the pioneering London department store founded in 1909 by American capitalist buccaneer Harry Gordon Selfridge, portrayed by Piven.

New faces joining the cast in Season 2 include Polly Walker (*Masterpiece*'s "Miss Marple") as Delphine Day, risqué novelist and proprietor of a new nightclub; Cal Macaninch (*Masterpiece*'s "Downton Abbey") as Mr. Thackeray, the sharp-tongued new head of fashion; and Aidan McArdle (*Masterpiece*'s "Jane Eyre") as Lord Loxley, the absentee husband of Lady Mae (Katherine Kelly), who suddenly shows up to recoup the fortune he has gambled away.

The season opens with a special two-hour premiere. The year is 1914, and the store is celebrating its fifth anniversary. Many employees have moved up the promotion ladder, some have moved on, and Harry's wife, Rose (Frances O'Connor), has moved out — back to America. However, she unexpectedly returns to London as a changed woman. Meanwhile, the loose ends of love affairs from last season get tied up as men are called to serve in a war that will change all of their lives forever!

cptv Primetime

CPTV Early Prime
Monday Through Friday, unless otherwise noted:

6:00 pm BBC World News
6:30 Nightly Business Report
6:56 Connecticut First powered by WNPR News*
7:00 PBS NewsHour

***"Connecticut First" powered by WNPR News is a weeknight newscast featuring Connecticut-focused news and information.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

6:30 am PEEP and the Big Wide World
7:00 Wild Kratts
7:30 30 Days to a Younger Heart with Dr. Steven Masley
Dr. Steven Masley shares three steps to fighting aging and disease.
9:00 Dr. Wayne Dyer: I Can See Clearly Now
Through personal stories and philosophical illustrations, Dr. Wayne Dyer explains that each person's life is a tapestry composed of the choices he or she makes.
12:00 Suze Orman's Financial Solutions for You
Finance expert Suze Orman explains why financial decision-making should be guided by an understanding of "the goal of money."
2:00 Easy Yoga: The Secret to Strength and Balance with Peggy Cappy
Learn how yoga can aid people who want to increase strength and mobility at any age.
3:00 John Sebastian Presents Folk Rewind (My Music)
Presented by the lead singer of The Lovin' Spoonful, this music special showcases the singers and songwriters of the '50s and '60s folk era.
5:00 John Denver: Rocky Mountain High — Live in Japan
John Denver performs such hits as "Annie's Song" and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" in this classic 1981 concert.
6:30 Moments to Remember (My Music)
Hosted by Patti Page and Nick Clooney, this program features performances by numerous legends of the late '50s and early '60s pop era.
9:00 Doc Martin: Revealed
(See *Highlight*, right.)
10:30 Great Performances
Bob Dylan: The 30th Anniversary Concert This special includes highlights from the 1992 star-studded concert tribute to Bob Dylan. Filmed at Madison Square Garden, the concert was held in honor of the 30th anniversary of Dylan's groundbreaking, self-titled 1962 debut album. See June Carter Cash and Johnny Cash, Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Willie Nelson and others perform the songs that helped make Dylan a legend.
(12:30 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

CPTV Original, CPTV National Production or Presentation or CPTV Co-production indicated in blue.

Viewers' favorite music specials, inspirational how-to shows and more are showcased. For specific titles, check local listings or visit CPTV.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 am -- 7:30 am: Viewers' Favorites
7:30 Easy Yoga: The Secret to Strength and Balance with Peggy Cappy
(See March 1 at 2 p.m.)
8:30 The Blood Sugar Solution 10-Day Detox Diet
Dr. Mark Hyman provides his step-by-step process for ending food addiction and reversing "diabesity."
10:00 Suze Orman's Financial Solutions for You
(See March 1 at 12 p.m.)
12:00 Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The '60s (My Music)
My Music presents classic music performances that aired on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in the 1960s. Artists include the Beatles, the Doors and many others.
2:00 Moments to Remember (My Music)
(See March 1 at 6:30 p.m.)
4:30 Mister Rogers & Me
"America's Favorite Neighbor" touched countless lives. This documentary follows Fred Rogers' real-life neighbor, journalist Benjamin Wagner, as he and his brother explore Rogers' legacy.
6:00 Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The '60s (My Music)
(See March 2 at 12 p.m.)
8:00 BrainChange with David Perlmutter, M.D.
This special looks at the effects wheat, sugar and carbohydrates can have on the human brain, and neurologist David Perlmutter discusses his 30-day plan for achieving optimum health.
9:30 Rick Steves' Festive Europe
European cultures at their most festive are captured as Rick Steves travels to Paris on Bastille Day, takes in the royal pageantry in London and more.

Doc Martin: Revealed
Airs March 1 at 9 p.m.

This special provides viewers with a rare behind-the-scenes look at the making of the series' sixth season. See interviews with actors and crew members and get exclusive access to the set as sequences are filmed on location in Port Isaac, Cornwall, England. It's an opportunity no *Doc Martin* fan will want to miss!

10:00 Masterpiece Mystery!
Sherlock, Season 3: "The Empty Hearse" Catch a special encore presentation of the Season 3 premiere episode, in which Sherlock miraculously returns, but John Watson finds it might be a case of "be careful what you wish for."
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

MONDAY, MARCH 3

8:00 Ethan Bortnick Live in Concert: The Power of Music
Filmed live in 2013, this concert features the talents of 12-year-old composer and pianist Ethan Bortnick as he performs with a 50-piece orchestra, a four-piece band, a 120-member children's choir and special guest vocalists. The youngest performer ever to headline his own international concert tour, Bortnick performs classical tunes, pop songs and even his original composition *Anything Is Possible* in this special.
9:30 The Blood Sugar Solution 10-Day Detox Diet
(See March 2 at 8:30 a.m.)
11:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

8:00 Suze Orman's Financial Solutions for You
(See March 1 at 12 p.m.)
10:00 Moments to Remember (My Music)
(See March 1 at 6:30 p.m.)
(12:30 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

8:00 Nature
Ireland's Wild River This new episode of *Nature* explores Ireland's greatest geographical landmark and longest river, the Shannon.

9:30 3 Steps to Incredible Health with Joel Fuhrman, M.D.
Dr. Joel Fuhrman discusses his plan for shedding weight quickly.

11:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

8:00 Under the Streetlamp: Let the Good Times Roll
(See *Program Picks*, page 104.)

9:30 Rock, Pop and Doo Wop (My Music)
Ronnie Spector and Jon "Bowzer" Bauman host a concert special featuring hit songs from the late '50s and early '60s. See emotion-packed performances by The Orlons, Len Barry and many others.

(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 BrainChange with David Perlmutter, M.D.
(See March 2 at 8 p.m.)

10:00 Great Performances
Bob Dylan: The 30th Anniversary Concert (See March 1 at 10:30 p.m.)

(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

6:30 am -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

6:30 am -- 6:30 pm: Viewers' Favorites

6:30 Ethan Bortnick Live in Concert: The Power of Music
(See March 3 at 8 p.m.)

8:00 Under the Streetlamp: Let the Good Times Roll
(See *Program Picks*, page 104.)

9:30 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

MONDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

8:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

8:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

8:00 pm -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

6:30 am -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

6:30 am -- Midnight: Viewers' Favorites
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

MONDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 Antiques Roadshow
El Paso, Texas, Part 2

9:00 Antiques Roadshow
El Paso, Texas, Part 3

10:00 JFK: A Homecoming
In 1963, President John F. Kennedy made a historic trip to his ancestors' homeland in Ireland.

11:00 Antiques Roadshow
Detroit, Michigan, Part 2

(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

8:00 American Experience
The Amish See a contemporary portrait of Amish life, focusing on the beliefs, lifestyle and history of this insular religious community.

10:00 The Real McCoy
In the 1920s, Bill McCoy was part of a new generation of bootleggers. Learn how this gentleman crook became the pioneer rum runner of the Prohibition era.

11:00 JFK: A Homecoming
(See March 17 at 10 p.m.)

(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 Nature
Frogs: The Thin Green Line Scientists race against time to save vanishing amphibian species.

9:00 NOVA
Venom: Nature's Killer Scientists track down the planet's most deadly creatures to study their toxic venom.

10:00 Skeletons of the Sahara
A prehistoric human burial ground is discovered in the middle of Africa's large, forbidding desert.

11:00 NOVA
Mystery of Easter Island New theories examine how and why the ancient islanders built and moved nearly 900 giant statues.

(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

8:00 All Things Connecticut
Making a Difference Meet Connecticut residents who are changing lives in the Nutmeg State, including a New Haven woman who's helping to make sure that families in need have enough diapers for their young children.

8:30 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
Explore the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and other locations, and get to know the Greenwich Historical Society.

9:00 Death in Paradise Double Feature
First, the team is called to the murder scene of a young meteorologist. Then, the host of a charity fundraiser is found shot to death.

11:00 Ask This Old House

11:30 This Old House

(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 Washington Week

8:30 Charlie Rose—The Week

9:00 Foyle's War
Bleak Midwinter The deaths of a munitions worker and Paul Milner's wife seem to be linked. Parts 1 and 2.

CPBN Congratulates Chion Wolf on Being Named One of *Connecticut Magazine*'s 40 Under 40

Photo by Patrick Skahill

In its February issue, *Connecticut Magazine* unveiled its 40 Under 40 for the year 2014. The 40 Under 40 is *Connecticut Magazine*'s annual list of young adults – including doctors, lawyers, artists, philanthropists and more – who are truly making a name for themselves in the Nutmeg State. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN) is proud to announce that CPBN employee Chion Wolf was included on this year's list!

Chion has been a part of the CPBN family since 2006. She began as a volunteer, answering phones during fund drives for WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio, CPBN's NPR affiliate. Today, Chion is a producer, announcer and writer for WNPR's *The Colin McEnroe Show*. The multi-talented Chion also voices numerous station breaks, hand-picks songs for the station's music bed and lends her photojournalism skills to WNPR news stories and events.

When she's not contributing her talents to WNPR, Chion co-produces The MOuTH, a live storytelling event at the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford. She is also an actor, and serves on the board of directors for Night Fall, Inc., a yearly Hartford-based public performance. Additionally, she is a founding member of the Hartford-based marching band the Hartford Hot Several, where she plays the trash can bass drum, and she is a certified judge with the International Chili Society. CPBN congratulates Chion on her inclusion among the 2014 40 Under 40!

11:00 Live from the Artists Den
Phoenix
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

6:30 am PEEP and the Big Wide World
7:00 Wild Kratts
7:30 Thomas & Friends
8:00 Family Travel with Colleen Kelly
8:30 Biz Kid$
9:00 Hey Kids, Let's Cook!
9:30 Lidia's Kitchen
10:00 Rick Steves' Europe
10:30 All Things Connecticut
Making a Difference (See March 20 at 8 p.m.)
11:00 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
(See March 20 at 8:30 p.m.)
11:30 This Old House Hour
12:30 Growing a Greener World
1:00 Garden Smart
1:30 Sara's Weeknight Meals
2:00 America's Test Kitchen
2:30 Cook's Country Kitchen
3:00 Martha Stewart's Cooking School
3:30 Martha Bakes
4:00 Essential Pepin
4:30 Simply Ming
5:00 The Victory Garden
5:30 P. Allen Smith's Garden Home
6:00 Hometime
6:30 Ask This Old House
7:00 This Old House
7:30 American Masters
Pete Seeger: The Power of Song This authorized film documents the contributions of the late Pete Seeger, the man who introduced America to its folk heritage. A number of Seeger's colleagues and admirers, from Bob Dylan to the Dixie Chicks, provide insights.
9:00 Doc Martin
Sickness and Health Portwenn is buzzing about Martin and Louisa's wedding. Will they finally tie the knot?
10:00 Midsomer Murders
The Killings at Badger's Drift Part 1 of 2. (See *Highlight*, right.)
11:00 The Ambassador
Innocent Passage This six-part drama follows the dangers and trials encountered by Harriet Smith, the new UK ambassador to Ireland.
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

6:30 am Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps
7:00 Curious George
7:30 The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!
8:00 Signing Time
8:30 Sci Girls
9:00 Well Read
9:30 Religion & Ethics Newsweekly
10:00 JFK: A Homecoming
(See March 17 at 10 p.m.)
11:00 Consuelo Mack WealthTrack
11:30 To the Contrary
12:00 The McLaughlin Group
12:30 All Things Connecticut
Making a Difference (See March 20 at 8 p.m.)
1:00 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
(See March 20 at 8:30 p.m.)
1:30 Jerusalem: Center of the World
Ray Suarez, formerly the chief national correspondent for *PBS NewsHour*, hosts this look at the history of the holy city at the center of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.
3:30 American Woodshop
4:00 Woodsmith Shop
4:30 Doc Martin Mini-Marathon
Catch three back-to-back episodes of *Doc Martin*. First, in "Cats and Sharks," Martin makes plans to leave Portwenn. Then, in "Ever After," Mrs. Tishell's crush on Martin takes a dramatic turn. Finally, catch an encore presentation of "Sickness and Health." (See March 22 at 9 p.m.)

Midsomer Murders
Premieres Saturday, March 22 at 10 p.m.

The popular British detective drama makes its CPTV debut! Based on the novels of Caroline Graham, *Midsomer Murders* follows Detective Chief Inspector Tom Barnaby (John Nettles, pictured) and his fellow investigators who work to solve crimes in the rural countryside of a fictional county in England. The engaging characters and lush settings have made this series a long-running hit. Now, catch it Saturdays on CPTV.

7:00 The Real McCoy
(See March 18 at 10 p.m.)
8:00 The Best of Men
This fact-based drama tells the story of Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, who, in the 1940s, transformed the standard of care for paraplegics in England.
9:30 The Last Emperor
CPTV airs Bernardo Bertolucci's Academy Award-winning film that recounts the true story of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China.
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

MONDAY, MARCH 24

8:00 Antiques Roadshow
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Part 3

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9:00 Antiques Roadshow
Atlanta, Georgia, Part 1
10:00 Secrets of the Dead
China's Terracotta Warriors
Archaeologists uncover 8,000 terracotta warriors made for the emperor of China 2,200 years ago.
11:00 Doc Martin
Sickness and Health (See March 22 at 9 p.m.)
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

8:00 The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama
The Beginning This new series, written and hosted by historian and scholar Simon Schama, offers a comprehensive story of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present day.
9:00 The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama
Among Believers (See March 25 at 8 p.m.)
10:00 Character Defined
(See *Program Picks*, page 104.)
10:30 Above and Beyond: The Story of Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr.
Journey to Vietnam to learn how a combat photographer sacrificed his life to save his fellow troops.
11:00 Frontline
TB: Silent Killer Families battle the spreading strains of tuberculosis in a southern African nation.
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 Nature
What Plants Talk About An astonishing landscape where plants eavesdrop on each other and talk to their allies is revealed.
9:00 NOVA
Cold Case JFK State-of-the-art forensic tools are used to investigate the assassination of John F. Kennedy.
10:00 Secrets of the Dead
The Lost Diary of Dr. Livingstone
As the 200th anniversary of the birth of the famed explorer is celebrated, new forensic techniques are used to study his diary.
11:00 Secrets of the Dead
China's Terracotta Warriors
(See March 24 at 10 p.m.)
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 All Things Connecticut
Connecticut's Cultural Resources
A Fairfield treatment center that practices a unique form of naturopathy and an award-winning Torrington jump rope team are explored. Plus, learn about late playwright Horton Foote's creative partnership with Hartford Stage.
8:30 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
Tour the Philip Johnson Glass House, Gillette Castle, the Yale Center for British Art and more!
9:00 UConn Men's Basketball: An Illustrated History
This film explores the most dramatic moments that have taken place in nearly 100 years of men's basketball at the University of Connecticut.
11:00 Ask This Old House
11:30 This Old House
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 Washington Week
8:30 Charlie Rose—The Week
9:00 Foyle's War
Casualties of War Foyle takes in his troubled goddaughter and her son. Part 1 of 2.
10:00 The Bletchley Circle
Four women use their unique code-breaking abilities to solve crimes during World War II. Part 1 of 3.
11:00 Live from the Artists Den
Sheryl Crow
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

6:30 am PEEP and the Big Wide World
7:00 Wild Kratts
7:30 Thomas & Friends
8:00 Family Travel with Colleen Kelly
8:30 Biz Kid$
9:00 Hey Kids, Let's Cook!
9:30 Lidia's Kitchen
10:00 Rick Steves' Europe
10:30 All Things Connecticut
Connecticut's Cultural Resources
(See March 27 at 8 p.m.)
11:00 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
(See March 27 at 8:30 p.m.)
11:30 This Old House Hour
12:30 Growing a Greener World
1:00 Garden Smart
1:30 Sara's Weeknight Meals
2:00 America's Test Kitchen
2:30 Cook's Country Kitchen
3:00 Martha Stewart's Cooking School
3:30 Martha Bakes
4:00 Essential Pepin
4:30 Simply Ming
5:00 The Victory Garden
5:30 P. Allen Smith's Garden Home
6:00 Hometime
6:30 Ask This Old House
7:00 This Old House
7:30 Character Defined
(See *Program Picks*, page 104.)
8:00 America's Veterans: A Musical Tribute 2011
The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces are honored with performances by Jo Dee Messina, Irish tenor Ronan Tynan and the U.S. Air Force Band.
9:00 Doc Martin
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
Martin and Louisa host a disastrous dinner party.
10:00 Midsomer Murders
The Killings at Badger's Drift Part 2 of 2. (See *Highlight*, page 108.)

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The Robert G. & Marguerite M. Derx Foundation of New Fairfield supports health and educational initiatives to address the needs of children and youth in western Connecticut.

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11:00 The Ambassador
Refugee (See March 22 at 11 p.m.)
(12 am - 6:30 am: CPTV All Night)

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

6:30 am Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps
7:00 Curious George
7:30 The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!
8:00 Signing Time
8:30 Sci Girls
9:00 Well Read
9:30 Religion & Ethics Newsweekly
10:00 Character Defined
(See *Program Picks*, page 104.)
10:30 Above and Beyond: The Story of Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr.
(See March 25 at 10:30 p.m.)
11:00 Consuelo Mack WealthTrack
11:30 To the Contrary
12:00 The McLaughlin Group
12:30 All Things Connecticut
Connecticut's Cultural Resources
(See March 27 at 8 p.m.)
1:00 Connecticut's Cultural Treasures
(See March 27 at 8:30 p.m.)
1:30 The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama
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2:30 The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama
Among Believers (See March 25 at 8 p.m.)
3:30 American Woodshop
4:00 Woodsmith Shop
4:30 Hometime
5:00 Ask This Old House
5:30 This Old House
6:00 Doc Martin
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
(See March 29 at 9 p.m.)
7:00 Secrets of the Dead
The Lost Diary of Dr. Livingstone
(See March 26 at 10 p.m.)
8:00 Call the Midwife
(See *Feature*, page 105.)
9:00 Masterpiece Classic
Mr. Selfridge, Season 2 (See *Feature*, page 105.)
11:00 Secrets of Selfridges
Learn how Harry Selfridge, founder of the world-famous department store Selfridge & Co., rose from poverty and personal tragedy to take London by storm.
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

MONDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 Antiques Roadshow
Kansas City, Missouri, Part 1
9:00 Antiques Roadshow
Atlanta, Georgia, Part 2
10:00 Montezuma
The Aztec king who believed ruthlessness was the only way to stop his empire from falling apart is profiled.
11:00 Doc Martin
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
(See March 29 at 9 p.m.)
(12 am - 7 am: CPTV All Night)

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wnpr Program Guide

Note: This schedule will take effect on March 1, 2014.

Weekdays		Saturday		Sunday	
5 am – 9 am	Morning Edition*	6 am – 7 am	On the Media	6 am – 7 am	Latino USA
9 am – 10 am	Where We Live	7 am – 8 am	Studio 360	7 am – 8 am	On Being
10 am – 12 pm	On Point	8 am – 10 am	Weekend Edition	8 am – 10 am	Weekend Edition
12 pm – 1 pm	Fresh Air	10 am – 11 am	Car Talk	10 am – 11 am	Car Talk
1 pm – 2 pm	The Colin McEnroe Show	11 am – 12 pm	Wait Wait…Don't Tell Me!	11 am – 12 pm	Wait Wait…Don't Tell Me!
2 pm – 3 pm	Here and Now**	12 pm – 1 pm	The Food Schmooze	12 pm – 2 pm	A Prairie Home Companion
3 pm – 4 pm	The Faith Middleton Show**	1 pm – 2 pm	This American Life	2 pm – 3 pm	Ask Me Another
4 pm – 6:30 pm	All Things Considered	2 pm – 3 pm	Snap Judgment	3 pm – 4 pm	On the Media
6:30 pm – 7 pm	Marketplace	3 pm – 4 pm	Radio Lab	4 pm – 5 pm	TED Radio Hour
7 pm – 8 pm	Where We Live	4 pm – 5 pm	The Moth Radio Hour	5 pm – 6 pm	All Things Considered
8 pm – 9 pm	The Colin McEnroe Show	5 pm – 6 pm	All Things Considered	6 pm – 6:30 pm	WNPR Health Forum
9 pm – 10 pm	The Faith Middleton Show***	6 pm – 8 pm	A Prairie Home Companion	6:30 pm – 8 pm	WNPR's Essential Radio
10 pm – 11 pm	Fresh Air	8 pm – 9 pm	Says You!	8 pm – 9 pm	Snap Judgment
11 pm – 12 am	Varies; see WNPR.org	9 pm – 10 pm	Wits	9 pm – 10 pm	Latino USA
12 am – 5 am	BBC News	10 pm – 11 pm	Sound Opinions	10 pm – 11 pm	From the Top
		11 pm – 12 am	Afropop Worldwide	11 pm – 12 am	A Way with Words
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BY RAY BENDICI

RABBIT, RABBIT

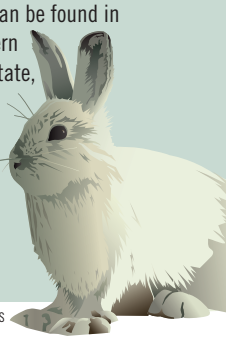
Although the phrase "multiplying like rabbits" certainly seems to be accurate when discussing the population of long-eared critters in Connecticut, it's not quite that simple. Connecticut is home to two species of cottontail rabbit—the eastern cottontail, which was introduced to the state about 120 years ago, and the New England cottontail, which is native. Although eastern cottontails have flourished since their arrival (mating season starts this month), New England cottontails are in steep decline. Suburban development has diminished the New England cottontail's main habitat, thickets, which has restricted population growth. Consequently, the New England cottontail has been designated a threatened species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Complicating matters, the two species cannot interbreed and are difficult even for biologists to tell apart, which makes monitoring populations challenging. The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is participating in a regional initiative to restore New England cottontails by creating rabbit-friendly habitats across the state and supporting captive-breeding programs that are occurring in other New England states.

Key Dates in Connecticut Rabbit History

The Late 1800s: The Eastern Cottontail is introduced to New England.

September 2006: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service designates the New England Cottontail as a threatened species.

TRANSFORMERS: Snowshoe hares, which can be found in the northwestern corner of the state, have brown coats in the summer and then grow a white coat for winter.



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MYTH BUSTING RABBIT EDITION

Although "hare" and "rabbit" are often used interchangeably (thanks, Bugs Bunny!), they are different species, like dolphins and porpoises. They have many differences and cannot interbreed.

By the Numbers

3: Species of rabbits and hares found in Connecticut–snowshoe hares, New England and eastern cottontails.

115: Connecticut towns since October 2000 in which cottontails have been found.

12: Percent of Connecticut cottontails that are New England cottontails.

18: Miles per hour, the top speed of a cottontail.

$550,000: Amount of state and federal wildlife grants dedicated to New England cottontail restoration.

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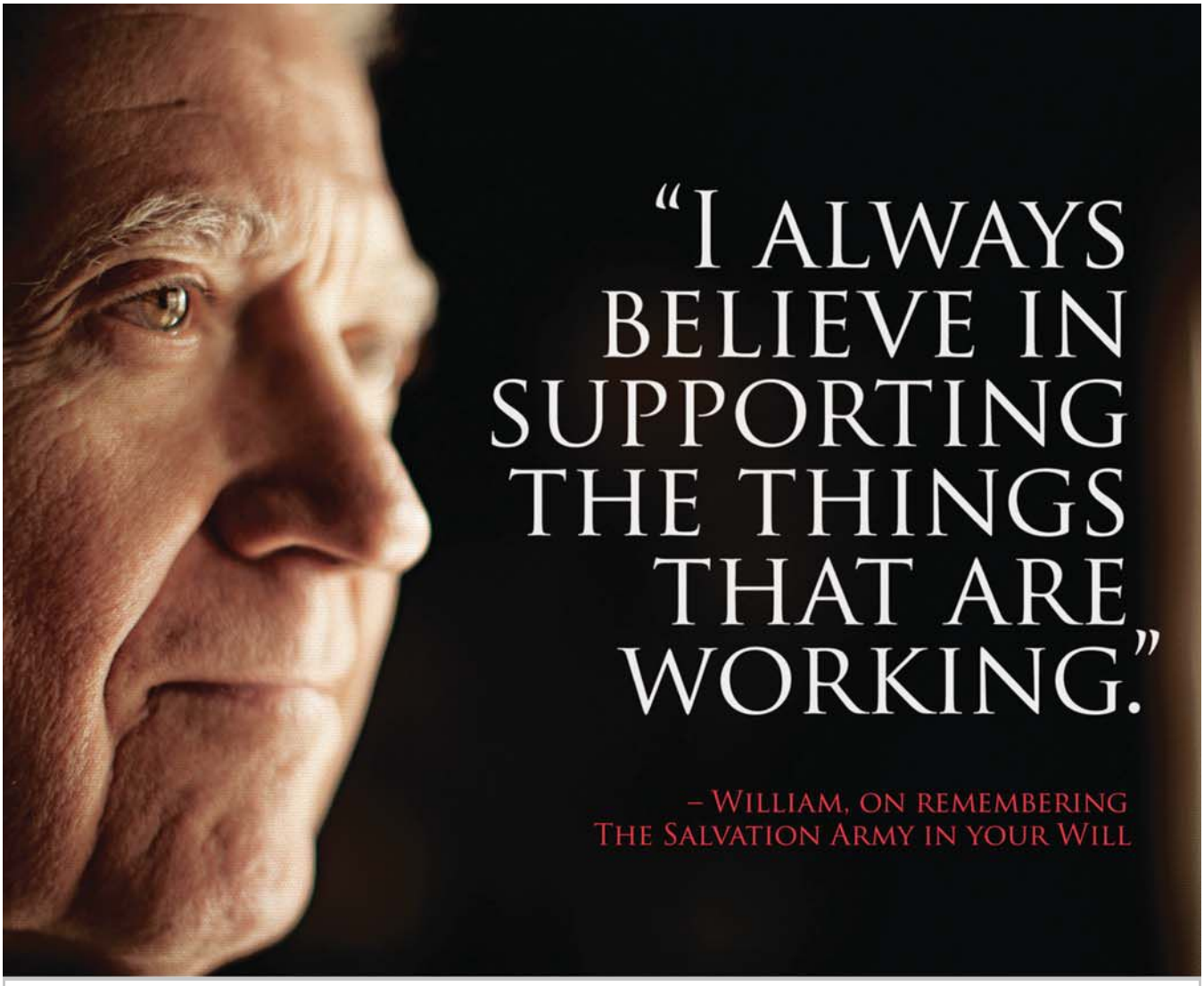

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